



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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15 May 1991

Daily Report

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FBIS-NES-91-094

CONTENTS

15 May 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Officials Arrive in Cairo for Arab League Meeting	1
Saudi Foreign Minister [MENA]	1
Iraqi State Minister Al-Sahhaf [MENA]	1
Jordan, Yemen, UAE, Mauritania Ministers [MENA]	1
Libyan, Djibouti, Sudanese Ministers [MENA]	1
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives [MENA]	1
PLO's Qaddumi, Tunisian Foreign Minister [MENA]	1
Arab League Statement on Founding of Israel [MENA]	1
Arab League's Al-As'ad Comments on Meeting [MENA]	2
GCC, Syrian, Egyptian Foreign Ministers To Confer [MENA]	2
Ministers Meet on Sidelines [Cairo Radio]	2
Saudi, Lebanese Foreign Ministers Hold Talks [MENA]	2
Statement Issued on Meeting [MENA]	2
Arab League Foreign Ministers' Meeting Begins	2
'Abd-al-Majid Elected Secretary General [Cairo Radio]	2
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Chairs Session [MENA]	3

Palestinian Affairs

Proposal for 'Provisional Government' Debated [MENA]	3
PLO Spokesman Previews Meeting With Baker [Algiers VOP]	3
Hawatimah Assails U.S. Role in Peace Conference [APS]	4
Correction to 'Arafat Address on Intifadah'	4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamrouche Submits Candidacy; FLN Issues Appeal [Algiers Radio]	5
Ben Bella Denies Requesting Votes for FIS [Algiers Radio]	5
'Revolutionary Family' Association Established [Algiers Radio]	5

Egypt

Mubarak Accepts Foreign Minister's Resignation [MENA]	5
Further on Lebanese Foreign Minister's Visit	5
More on Meeting With Baker [MENA]	5
Delivers Al-Hirawi's Message [Beirut Radio]	6
Comments on Talks With Mubarak [MENA]	6
Meets With Butrus Ghali [MENA]	6
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets With Mubarak [MENA]	6
Delivers Message to Sidqi [MENA]	7
Armed Forces To Assist in Gulf Mine Clearing [MENA]	7

Bahraini Foreign Minister Arrives 13 May [Cairo Radio]	7
Gives Amir's Message to Mubarak [MENA]	7
Jordanian Envoy Praises Ties, Urges Arab Unity [MENA]	8

Morocco

King Hassan To Visit Saharan Provinces 16 May [MAP]	8
Istiqlal Party Says UN Referendum 'Obsolete' [MAP]	8
Human Rights Organization Holds First Congress [Paris International]	8
Further on Meeting [MAP]	8

Sudan

Khartoum Denies Rearrest of Former Prime Minister [MENA]	9
Detainees Allowed To Engage in Politics, Travel [MENA]	9
Ministers Approve Judicial Agreement With Libya [SUNA]	9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

British Defense Official Meets With Amir [WAKH]	10
Concludes Visit, Departs [WAKH]	10

Qatar

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Arrives From Bahrain [WAKH]	10
Concludes Visit 13 May [WAKH]	10

Saudi Arabia

Further on Visit of Soviet Foreign Minister	10
Statements to Journalists [SPA]	10
Cooperation on Gulf 'Positive' [SPA]	12
Defense Minister, UK's Heseltine Hold Talks [SPA]	12
King Fahd, Bush Hold Telephone Conversation [SPA]	12
King Fahd, Egyptian President Discuss Relations [SPA]	13

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Telephones Egypt's Mubarak on Security [WAKH]	13
---	----

Yemen

Salih Receives Demand on Amending Constitution [Sanaa Radio]	13
President Addresses People's Congress Members [Sanaa Radio]	13
Presidential Council Urges Turnout in Referendum [Sanaa Radio]	14

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Al-Fallujah Audience [INA]	15
Rebel Radio—U.S. Forces Fire at Zakho Marchers [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	15
Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace Violations [INA]	15
Paper Cites Barzani's Statement on Baghdad Talks [AL-THAWRAH 13 May]	15
Rebel Radio on Kurdish Demands [Voice of Iraqi Opposition]	16
Paper Condemns Exploitation of Kurdish Issue [INA]	16
Iraqis To Attend 'Next Pilgrimage Season' [INA]	16
Generation Begins at Al-Dawrah's Fifth Unit [INA]	17
AL-THAWRAH on Baker's Middle East Mission [INA]	17
AL-'IRAQ Calls on U.S., Allies To Leave [INA]	17
Paper on U.S. 'Criminal Scheme' Against Country [AL-QADISIYAH 13 May]	18

UN Informed of Iranian Encroachments [INA]	19
'Strict Security Measures' Claimed in Baghdad [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	19

ISRAEL

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State	20
Baker, Shamir, Arens Meet [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Palestinians Raise 'Toughest Issues' [Tel Aviv Radio]	20
Return to Original Plan Sought [Jerusalem Radio]	20
New Mobile Homes at Jerusalem Area Settlement [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Deputy Foreign Minister Comments [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Variations on Peace Conference Format Discussed [Tel Aviv Radio]	21
Separate Talks With Jordan, Palestinians Considered [Jerusalem Radio]	22
Arens—Country Ready for Direct Talks With Syria [Tel Aviv Radio]	22
Arens on Importance of Settlement Campaign [Tel Aviv Radio]	22

JORDAN

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State	23
James Baker Arrives [Amman Radio]	23
King Husayn, Baker Confer [PETRA-JNA]	23
Brief Press [Amman Radio]	23
More on News Conference [Amman Radio]	24
Al-Masri Leaves for Cairo Arab League Session [Amman Radio]	25
Minister's Decision on Sports Days Criticized [AL-RAY 9 May]	26

LEBANON

'Enemy Forces' Said Changing Borders in South [Beirut Radio]	27
Army Force Leaves for South, Deploys in Tyre [VOL]	27
Israeli, Lahd Response Cited [Voice of the Oppressed]	27
Birri Travels to Syria, Meets With Khaddam [Beirut Radio]	27
Ibrahim Returns, Discusses Dialogue With PLO [RFL]	27

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Bessmertnykh Discuss Peace Efforts [Damascus TV]	28
Bessmertnykh Briefs Press, Departs [SANA]	28
Vice President Receives Iranian Labor Minister [Damascus Radio]	29
Iranian Minister Departs [SANA]	29
Reportage on Interior Minister's Visit to Cyprus [cross-reference]	29

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Concludes Foreign Visits [Kabul Radio]	30
Kazakh Komsomol Group Meets Education Minister [Kabul Radio]	30
Meets With Presidential Guard [Kabul Radio]	30
Received by Najibullah [Kabul Radio]	30
Mujahidin Capture Town Near Soviet Border [AFP]	30
Mujahidin Capture 3 'Important Places' in North [Islamabad Radio]	31

Bangladesh

First Military Units Return From Saudi Arabia [Dhaka International]	31
Envoy to UN Appeals for Generous Cyclone Aid [Dhaka International]	31

India

Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund Opened [Delhi Radio]	31
Reportage on Border Talks With PRC [cross-reference]	31
Curfew Continues in Kashmir Town for Third Day [Delhi Radio]	31
'Militants' Kill Another Candidate in Punjab [Delhi Radio]	31
Assam Government Enforces National Security Act [Delhi Radio]	32

Iran

Khamene'i Current Health Status Reported	32
Interviewed in Hospital [Tehran TV]	32
Doctors Comment on Condition [Tehran Radio]	32
Iraqi Refugees Return Home as Unrest Continues [IRNA]	32
India Urged To Resolve Kashmir Issue [IRNA]	32
Proposed Pact With Israel Called 'Disgraceful' [IRNA]	33
Commentary Urges Caution on Recognizing Israel [Tehran Radio]	33
West Said To Ignore Plight of Iraqi Shiites [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 5 May]	33
President's Remarks in Turkey, Syria Noted [KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 4 May]	34
President's Visits to Syria, Turkey Viewed [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 2 May]	35
Velayati Briefs Majles on 'Diplomatic Efforts' [IRNA]	35
Velayati Views Rights of Expatriates [IRNA]	36
Velayati Departs for Australia, New Zealand [IRNA]	36
Oil Minister, Delegation Leave for Pakistan [IRNA]	36
UN Information Under Secretary Visits	36
Discusses Media Cooperation [Tehran Radio]	36
Meets Deputy Foreign Minister [Tehran Radio]	36
Majles Approves Bill on Contested Seats [Tehran Radio]	37
Pilgrimage Official on Cooperation With Saudis [Tehran Radio]	37
Editorial Views Continuing Repercussions of War [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 1 May]	37
* Khamene'i Seeks Right To Dissolve Majles [London KEYHAN 25 Apr]	38

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Reportage on Parliamentary Election Results	38
Nepali Congress Maintains Lead [Deihi International]	38
Further on Party Standings [AFP]	39
Kathmandu Celebrates Communist Victory [AFP]	39

Pakistan

President Discusses Kashmir With UK Visitor [Islamabad Radio]	40
Iranian Oil Minister Arrives 14 May [Islamabad Radio]	40
House Resumes Discussion on Islamic Law Bill [Islamabad Radio]	40
Bhutto Calls Bill 'Unconstitutional' [AFP]	40
Benazir Bhutto Charged With Misusing Funds [Islamabad Radio]	41
Bhutto Party Leader 'Tortured' to Death [AFP]	41
Sindhi Nationalists Claim Success in Strike [AFP]	41

Inter-Arab Affairs

Officials Arrive in Cairo for Arab League Meeting

Saudi Foreign Minister

NC1405130291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this afternoon to take part in the Arab League Council meetings that will open tomorrow, Wednesday, on the level of Arab foreign ministers.

As'ad al-As'ad, acting Arab League secretary general, welcomed the Saudi foreign minister at the airport.

Iraqi State Minister Al-Sahhaf

NC1405172691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the Arab League Council meeting which will open here tomorrow.

In an arrival statement, he expressed the hope that conditions in the Arab region return to normal. He said: We hope everyone realizes that we support all efforts to promote joint Arab action.

He was received upon arrival by As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League acting secretary general, and Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

Jordan, Yemen, UAE, Mauritania Ministers

NC1405193791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Arab foreign ministers continue arriving in Cairo, where a session of the Arab League Council will open tomorrow. Tonight's arrivals included Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] foreign minister; Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister; and Hasni Ould Didi, Mauritanian foreign minister.

In an arrival statement, Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Masri expressed the hope that a new stage of joint Arab action will be launched, particularly because current circumstances demand that all Arabs stand together. He stressed the importance of cooperation and understanding among all Arabs. He also said that his country's relations with Egypt are good and that he will hold bilateral talks during his stay in Cairo. He said that Egypt is as fraternal country for which we harbor the greatest appreciation and amity. The Arab ministers were received by As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League acting secretary

Libyan, Djibouti, Sudanese Ministers

NC1405191691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT
14 May 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for external liaison and international cooperation, arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation to the Arab League Ministerial Council's 95th session, which is scheduled to open tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Djibouti Foreign Minister Bahdon Farah Moumin also arrived at the head of his country's delegation.

Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul arrived this evening for a four-day visit, during which he will participate in the Arab League meetings. On arrival, he expressed the hope that the meetings will help clear the Arab atmosphere. [passage omitted]

Sahlul stressed that his country wants to bolster its relations with Egypt to serve the interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. He said he was optimistic that all sources of friction in the relations between the two fraternal countries will be removed. [passage omitted]

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1405202991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the Arab League Council session which opens here tomorrow.

PLO's Qaddumi, Tunisian Foreign Minister

NC1505110891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2318 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department; and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the 95th session of the Arab League Council.

Arab League Statement on Founding of Israel

NC1405112191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has demanded that the international community adopt effective measures to implement the UN resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue, as this would help consolidate the foundations and concept of the new world order.

In a statement marking the anniversary of the establishment of Israel on 15 May, the General Secretariat emphasized that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Arab-Zionist struggle. The statement also stressed that peace and stability in this part of the world cannot be achieved unless the Palestinian people's legitimate hopes for

freedom, independence, and the establishment of an independent state—with Jerusalem as its capital—under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, are fulfilled.

The statement noted that if this objective is met, it will open the door to promoting the elements of prosperity, peace, and stability in the region to the interest of its peoples and the world at large.

Arab League's Al-As'ad Comments on Meeting

NC1205080791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 12 May 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League assistant secretary general, has stressed that the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on Wednesday greatly resembles the Arab summit held in Khartoum in the wake of the 1967 setback. At that summit the Arab leaders succeeded in resolving their most complicated differences and laid new foundations for Arab solidarity. The Wednesday meeting, which is no less important than the previous summit, is expected to bring about a genuine Arab reconciliation so joint Arab action may forge ahead more strongly and effectively.

In an exclusive statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine that appeared in Monday's edition, al-As'ad said the next important step is the approval of the Arab League development plan. This plan, which will be discussed on the sidelines of the session, addresses loopholes and weaknesses in the Arab League system, and ways to make the Arab League more effective and promote its mechanism.

Al-As'ad pointed out that the Arab foreign ministers' agenda includes 17 important topics related to issues of joint Arab action, primarily the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the condition of Palestinians in Arab countries and in occupied Arab land. He said the Arab League will also discuss the Sudanese memorandum regarding Zionist threats to Sudan, the Libyan memorandum on the continued U.S. economic blockade of Libya, Arab-African cooperation, and Arab-European dialogue. [passage omitted]

GCC, Syrian, Egyptian Foreign Ministers To Confer

NC1205070391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—According to press reports, the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council and of Egypt and Syria will hold a meeting before the Arab League Council extraordinary session in Cairo on Wednesday. The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR reported today that the eight foreign ministers will discuss ways to quickly implement the Damascus Declaration.

Ministers Meet on Sidelines

NC1505085791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, Egypt, and Syria

began at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The meeting is being held on the sidelines of the Arab League's Ministerial Council meetings which are due to open at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo later today.

Saudi, Lebanese Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

NC1405192191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in his suite at the Semiramis Hotel. Lebanese sources said they discussed the efforts to implement all provisions of the al-Ta'if accord to resolve the Lebanese crisis, as well as the role the world powers can play to force Israel to comply with Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978. This resolution provides for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon so the Lebanese legitimate government can extend its authority throughout the country. These sources stressed that the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord is proceeding steadily and that any obstacles are being dealt with as they arise.

Statement Issued on Meeting

NC1405202891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—In a statement issued after his meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz tonight, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said they had discussed the efforts being made to complete the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. He said things are progressing well in Lebanon, and there is no need for a meeting of the tripartite committee which is made up by Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. He said the Lebanese Government is doing an excellent job in fulfilling its responsibilities and noted that the tripartite committee is ready to assist Lebanon should it need any help. He said that it has not yet been decided if the foreign ministers of the countries that make up the committee will meet while they are in Cairo. He pointed out that contacts will be made soon with Arab and international parties to discuss the establishment of a fund to assist Lebanon as provided for in the al-Ta'if accord so that the Lebanese Government can start rebuilding the country. He expressed the hope that he and the Lebanese foreign minister will meet again soon, either in Riyadh or in Beirut.

Arab League Foreign Ministers' Meeting Begins

'Abd-al-Majid Elected Secretary General

NC1505095891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today was unanimously elected Arab League secretary general for a five-year term. Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime

minister, foreign minister, and chairman of the current Arab League session, announced that the ministerial council unanimously approved Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's election to the post of Arab League secretary general.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Chairs Session

NC1505111891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—The Arab League Ministerial Council opened its meetings today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The planned agenda included the nomination of Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to succeed Chedli Klibi as Arab League secretary general.

The agenda also included a number of Arab political and economic issues, and issues dealing with the Arab-European dialogue and Arab-African cooperation.

The Arab League Ministerial Council's meeting began one hour late due to the late arrival of the Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers. These foreign ministers—from Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania—met at the Cairo Sheraton Hotel this morning to coordinate their positions at the Arab League meetings.

The Arab League Ministerial Council, meeting at the Arab League headquarters, decided to adjourn until 1600 this afternoon.

Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the current league session, announced that the session was adjourned after Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid left to tender his resignation as Egyptian foreign minister following his election as Arab League secretary general.

Shaykh Salim added that the next session, which will begin at 1600 today, will be restricted to the heads of the participating delegations, who will meet for consultation.

Palestinian Affairs

Proposal for 'Provisional Government' Debated

NC1405184591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Tunis, 14 May (MENA)—The meetings of the Fatah Revolutionary Council which ended here on 12 May witnessed heated debate over assessments of the Palestinian position on the Gulf crisis and the current state of the PLO's relations with various Arab countries, especially the Gulf states.

According to Palestinian sources who participated in these meetings, the Fatah Revolutionary Council session discussed the proposal submitted by Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan during the meetings of

the PLO Central Council last month. This proposal calls for the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government to break the deadlock in Arab-Palestinian relations.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that under Khalid al-Hasan's proposal, the provisional government would be made up of Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories who are not members of the PLO Executive Committee. This is intended to facilitate the PLO's participation in a peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, be it in the form of a Palestinian delegation, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, or a joint Arab delegation.

These sources disclosed that delegates from the Palestinian resistance factions represented on the PLO Executive Committee opposed the proposal at the Central Council meetings because they believe the U.S. moves are not serious and they want the United States and Israel to bear responsibility for the failure of these efforts and to be blamed for not respecting the international legitimacy.

The same sources said that the proposal on establishing a Palestinian government calls on Yasir 'Arafat to issue a decree announcing its establishment in his capacity as president of the Palestinian state in accordance with the Palestine National Council's proclamation of the Palestinian state. The proposal also stipulates that in order to facilitate its work on the political and international levels, the government should be led by a Palestinian personality who is not member of the PLO Executive Committee.

PLO Spokesman Previews Meeting With Baker

LD1405190491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has said that a meeting will be held today between a number of Palestinian nationalist personalities in the occupied Palestinian territory and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state.

The spokesman added that the meeting replaces that which did not materialize last month because the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region was cut short at the time. He said that the meeting will be held at 1830 Palestinian time and will be attended by brother Faysal al-Husayni, Dr Zakariyyah al-Agha, and Dr Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Brother Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, yesterday said that the United States will be responsible for the failure of the peace efforts in the Middle East. He added that Washington is working against international legitimacy.

Brother al-Surani said Baker is playing for time in order to consecrate Israeli colonization of the occupied territories, change the latter's demographic landmarks, and impose a new reality.

Hawatimah Assails U.S. Role in Peace Conference

LD1405170991 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Algiers, 14 May (APS)—Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), has stated that the Middle East was currently going through a flurry of diplomatic activity marked by the recent tours of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, several European political figures, and lately Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh with a view to finding a solution to the Middle East problem and its core, the Palestinian issue.

At a news conference at the DFLP's office in Algiers yesterday, Mr. Hawatimah indicated that "these efforts came as a result of the Gulf war, during which Iraq was destroyed in the name of international legality. This is why the United States and its allies find themselves in a difficult position regarding the Middle East issue now that the Gulf war is over." Mr. Hawatimah added that the successive visits by James Baker—who is currently and for the fourth time running through the Middle East—fall within that framework.

He went on to say: "At the moment there is no unified international position on the Middle East problem, because the United States wants a U.S. solution within the framework of the Camp David accords, which guarantees its own interests and its hegemony over the region by calling for a regional peace conference on the Middle East. Such a conference would grant the Palestinian people only autonomy under occupation. The U.S. solution is based on two aspects: The first is the holding of bilateral negotiations between Israel and every Arab state separately in implementation of a policy of two-track rapprochement. The second aspect of the U.S. solution centers on holding negotiations between the

Palestinians and Israel, and here the United States prefers that the Palestinian delegation be drawn from representatives of the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and not from the PLO."

Mr. Hawatimah also said: "This solution would be put forward at a regional conference the United States is calling for, to be held in Cairo under the patronage of both Washington and Moscow. Such a conference would then turn into mere bilateral geographical committees [as received] between each of the Arab states and Israel."

The Palestinian leader added that "in contrast with the U.S. solution, many European states, the Soviet Union, and China would like an international solution to the problem based on international legality." He went on to say: "The PLO, on its part, would like an international solution and not a U.S. one within the framework of an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the five members of the Security Council and not just the United States and the Soviet Union. The PLO is also demanding the implementation of the resolutions of international legality which are based on the principle of land for peace, Israel's withdrawal from all territories after 1967, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

Correction to 'Arafat Address on Intifadah

LD1305172991

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on Intifadah," published in the 13 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 2:

Column two, first complete paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...the inalienable national principles of our mujahidin... (providing indistinct word)

Algeria

Hamrouche Submits Candidacy; FLN Issues Appeal

LD1205132191 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
1200 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche has announced his candidacy, adding his name to the list of candidates for Ksar Chellala.

Meanwhile, the FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau addressed an appeal yesterday to party members who are candidates for the legislative elections, whose candidacies have not been accredited by the relevant FLN national committee. In its call, the Political Bureau said the accreditation of the candidacies of some persons does not at all mean a negative assessment of the other candidates.

The Political Bureau requested all to show discipline, consolidate ranks, and unite efforts to make the legislative elections successful.

Ben Bella Denies Requesting Votes for FIS

LD1105234491 *Algiers Domestic Service in French*
1800 GMT 11 May 91

[Excerpts] Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], categorically denies having issued a call for people to vote for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] during his successive meetings in the Oran region. Farida Bekkouché, you met the MDA leader this morning.

[Bekkouché] [passage omitted] Ben Bella's response this morning was: How could I ask people to vote for the FIS when, in my opinion, fundamentalism and intolerance are a serious danger threatening the country? How could I ask people to vote for the FIS when this party tries to fight me wherever I go, including attempts to ascribe certain scandals to me?

Ben Bella was more direct this morning: My relations with the FIS are not good at all, he said. My approach is tolerance and the rejection of violence; I will never ally myself with those who call for violence and bloodshed. We can only call for people to vote democratically. [passage omitted]

I asked former President Ben Bella the following direct, clear question: If, despite everything, a situation of FIS-National Liberation Front [FLN] bipolar dominance prevails, for whom would you vote in the second round?

Ben Bella's direct reply was: In any case, we will not vote for the FIS.

So would you vote FLN? Here, no reply came, or at least it came in these terms: At that time, we will assess the situation with our members.

'Revolutionary Family' Association Established

LD1305085291 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
0600 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] A new association called the Revolutionary Family [al-Usrah al-Thawriyah] was established 5 May. Mohamed Salah Anzil, one of the association's founding members, tells our colleague Aicha Dagha what the Revolutionary Family stands for, its mission, its political character.

[Begin recording] [Anzil] To avoid any confusion, by Revolutionary Family we mean the entire Algerian people with the exception of those who took up arms against the homeland and against the principles and the values of the revolution of liberation.

[Dagha] What is the mission of this association and its character? Is it a political or a cultural association, or does it not involve these aspects?

[Anzil] It is neither a political nor a cultural association. We are volunteers and our mission is to warn the officials, state bodies, and the political parties of the danger of legal excesses. [end recording]

Concerning the association's position with regard to the political parties and its activity in the preparations under way for the general elections, Mohamed Salah Anzil says:

[Begin Anzil recording] The association's position is that it is not against any quarter or any political association, but we advise all the political associations to respect the nation's principles and to engage in a fair and honest competition, rejecting treachery and excesses. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Accepts Foreign Minister's Resignation

NC1505113491 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1122 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak accepted at midday today the resignation of Dr. 'Isma' Abd-al-Majid from his post as deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid submitted his resignation to President Mubarak after his unanimous election as Arab League secretary general today.

Further on Lebanese Foreign Minister's Visit

More on Meeting With Baker

NC1405115891 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1035 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has again called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon separate from any

linkage to any peace plan for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

Lebanese diplomatic sources have said that during his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state yesterday, Buwayz emphasized that this resolution's implementation would help the Lebanese state execute the final phase of implementing its authority over all its territory.

The same sources said that Baker expressed his readiness to intensify efforts in this area, provided the implementation of the resolution coincides with the restoration of the state's authority on its territory and the disarming of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias.

Delivers Al-Hirawi's Message

*NC1405120191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 14 May 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz conveyed a message from President Ilyas al-Hirawi to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today. The message deals with Lebanese-Egyptian relations and the situation in Lebanon and the region.

Minister Buwayz will resume his talks in Cairo today with regard to UN Resolution 425, the imposition of the state's authority over all Lebanese territory, and Lebanon's position on the international and regional peace conferences. The talks will also deal with the economic and financial aid needed for Lebanon's reconstruction.

Minister Buwayz is expected to hold a meeting with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, during the Arab League's ministerial conference. The talks will touch on the presence of the Palestinian weapons in the south.

Comments on Talks With Mubarak

*NC1405162891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced that he conveyed a verbal message to President Hosni Mubarak from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi explaining Lebanon's views on the current situation in the Middle East.

In a statement following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Buwayz said they discussed a number of topics of common interest, including bilateral relations, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, and the progress being made toward convening a Middle East peace conference.

Buwayz said that Lebanon should be a party to any peace talks in the Middle East, pointing out that his country hosts a large number of Palestinians and has a common border with Israel.

Buwayz said that Lebanon will accept nothing less than the full implementation of Resolution 425 and demands this be done immediately.

Buwayz said that Lebanon wants peace to be established in the Middle East, a goal it shares with all Arab states. Lebanon, therefore, should be considered a basic party to any Middle East peace plan.

Buwayz explained that Lebanon is interested in two things: the implementation of Resolution 425 and the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. These are the issues that concern Lebanon in any Middle East peace talks.

Regarding the Middle East peace conference, Buwayz said that Lebanon supports international guarantees for any such conference. He added that international legitimacy and the United Nations must have a voice in any conference held for this purpose.

Meets With Butrus Ghali

*NC1405171691 Cairo MENA in English 1525 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Cairo, May 14 (MENA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali conferred here today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who is currently in Cairo to attend the meeting of the Arab League council at the foreign ministers level, due to open tomorrow.

Following the meeting, Dr. Ghali said there is a political will on the part of Beirut and Cairo for the consolidation of relations between Egypt and Lebanon and for consolidation of common Arab action either within the context of the Arab League or the international organizations.

The Lebanese foreign minister said that the talks dealt with the current situation on the regional and international arena, particularly the developments in the Middle East region. He added that they also discussed bilateral relations in the various fields.

Buwayz stressed the importance of Egypt's role on the international and Arab arenas and paid tribute to the excellent relations between Egypt and Lebanon.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Meets With Mubarak

*NC1305123691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo.

The Kuwaiti minister stated after the meeting that he had given an oral message to President Mubarak from Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The message confirms the close relations between the two

countries and recognizes the great role played by the Egyptian Army, people, and leadership under President Mubarak in the liberation of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti minister praised this courageous role and the role of the steadfast Egyptian soldier, something that the Kuwaiti people will not forget. He added: This role was not surprising, coming from brothers with whom we are linked by common destiny. It is recorded in Kuwait's history. He added that this position is proof of the special unity between Egypt and Kuwait.

In response to a question on Kuwait's views on Gulf security, the Kuwaiti minister said that all views are identical and there is no disagreement.

Delivers Message to Sidqi

NC1405184691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received a written message from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, when he met today with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting Cairo.

After the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister stated that the message stressed the fraternal and historic ties between the two countries and the importance of consultations within the framework of the single Arab family. The message also renewed Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's invitation to Dr. Sidqi to visit Kuwait.

Dr. Sidqi said he would be very pleased to visit Kuwait and stressed the ties of affection and appreciation between the Egyptian Government and people and the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people.

Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari also attended the meeting.

Armed Forces To Assist in Gulf Mine Clearing

NC1205141091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT
12 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—MENA's military editor has learned that Egypt recently signed a contract with the Kuwaiti Government under which units of the Egyptian Armed Forces will carry out operations to rid Kuwait of more than 500,000 unexploded land mines, bombs, and shells.

The MENA editor also learned that the contract stipulates that Egyptian military engineers will, in cooperation with personnel from armaments, ammunition, armor, and engineering departments, begin the clearing operations immediately as part of a comprehensive program. Other coalition countries will also participate.

The Egyptian Armed Forces have extensive experience in mine-clearing operations, having cleared large areas in the Sinai, the Red Sea, and Egypt's Western Desert of mines left by various wars.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Arrives 13 May

NC1405092791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah arrived in Cairo last night on an official visit to Egypt that will last for several days. During the visit, he will attend the Arab League's foreign ministers' meetings, which will open in Cairo tomorrow.

Gives Amir's Message to Mubarak

NC1405131091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that he passed a hand-written letter from Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to President Husni Mubarak at his meeting with the Egyptian president this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Bahraini ambassador in Cairo.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that the letter he delivered to President Mubarak from the amir is part of the ongoing consultations the two countries hold on topics of mutual interest and on Arab issues in general.

He said the letter expresses Bahrain's deep thanks for and appreciation of Egypt's position and its constant efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis and implement international resolutions on legitimacy. He stressed that Egypt's pan-Arab and principled position greatly contributed to the results achieved in the war. He added: We greatly appreciate and are proud of your position.

The Bahraini foreign minister said: In his message Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman expressed his appreciation of President Husni Mubarak's efforts to resolve the Middle East issue. He also expressed his appreciation of the recent contacts between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister and of Egypt's constant work on this important issue. He explained that he will convey President Mubarak's view on current issues to the amir of Bahrain.

Asked whether he and President Mubarak discussed security arrangements in the Gulf, the Bahraini foreign minister said he reviewed issues of mutual interest, including the post-war situation in the Gulf and security issues. He stressed that Bahrain and Egypt are in full agreement on the course of joint action; this is a fundamental point of cooperation. We are cooperating in this and other issues and will continue to do so.

Asked about Bahrain's position on the participation of Arab states in Gulf security arrangements, the Bahraini

foreign minister said: In fact, we support the Damascus declaration, which was signed by the six Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria. These are the states with which we are coordinating in this connection.

Asked about the Gulf states' participation in the Middle East conference, the Bahraini foreign minister said: If invited, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are ready to attend this conference and will send the GCC secretary general as an observer. He said: This is the GCC's contribution to facilitate the convening of this conference.

Jordanian Envoy Praises Ties, Urges Arab Unity

*NC1405184791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Jordanian Ambassador Nabih al-Nimr said that we should not spend too much time dwelling on the negative ramifications of the Gulf crisis because Arab reconciliation is inevitable.

In an interview with MENA, he noted that the Arab world is in dire need of overcoming this stage quickly so that further losses can be avoided. He pointed out that Arabs must unite around a joint position if they wish to keep pace with international developments.

He said his country supports joint Arab action to achieve collective Arab reconciliation. The ambassador described Egyptian-Jordanian relations as excellent and expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries will continue, as this will reflect positively on joint Arab action.

Morocco

King Hassan To Visit Saharan Provinces 16 May

*LD1305130191 Rabat MAP in English 1206 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] Rabat, May 13 (MAP)—King Hassan II will start his Saharan tour next Thursday by a visit to Smara where the sovereign will perform the Friday prayers, a release of the Ministry of the Interior and Information said Saturday.

King Hassan II will head on Saturday to the city of Assa, capital of the Ait Youssa tribes, where he will be reserved a red carpet welcome.

The royal visit to the Moroccan southern provinces will provide opportunity to all Saharan tribes to renew loyalty and attachment to the Alaouite throne.

The sovereign will visit landmarks in urban, economic and social achievements completed in the region since it was liberated from Spanish colonialism in 1975.

Istiqlal Party Says UN Referendum 'Obsolete'

*LD1305130691 Rabat MAP in English 1203 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] Essaouira, May 13 (MAP)—The Saharan provinces are part of Morocco and the Istiqlal Party rejects any attempt or decision by UNO [United Nations Organization] or others regarding Moroccan sovereignty and territorial integrity, said M'hamed Boucetta, leader of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist/opposition).

In a rally in the Atlantic coast city of Essaouira held in commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the death of the party leader Allal al-Fassi, Boucetta said vigilance all over the Kingdom should be heightened to uphold Moroccan rights on the Saharan provinces and foil conspiracies against Moroccan territory. The referendum is now obsolete in light of events at the regional and the international scale, said the Istiqlal Party secretary general, insisting Morocco will preserve its territories no matter the developments.

Human Rights Organization Holds First Congress

*LD1205160991 Paris International Service in French
1230 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] The human rights situation in Morocco has experienced a serious relapse over the last few years. Police officers have practiced different forms of torture and duress and inflicted inhuman treatment on several citizens. These remarks were made by the president of the Moroccan Human Rights Organization, which is holding its first congress in Casablanca at the moment. Its work ends this evening. The meeting is covering many subjects: conditions of detention in the prisons, the use of torture in police stations, and the situation of women in Morocco.

Further on Meeting

*LD1305132191 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] Casablanca, May 13 (MAP)—The Moroccan Human Rights Organisation "OMDH" opened its first congress here Saturday to look into the report on the human rights situation in the Kingdom.

Chairman Khalid Naciri surveyed progress made since inception in total independence from public authorities and stressed organisational problems faced by OMDH saying the congress would address the issue. He hailed the coming to being of the consultative council for human rights, positive cooperation with other similar organisations and greeted the birth of a national human rights [words indistinct] major event.

He highlighted action at the Maghreb level which resulted in the project for a regional union of human rights and stances backing the Palestinian cause and advocating a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis before the outbreak of the war.

The opening session was attended by delegates of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (socialist-opposition), the Party of Progress and Socialism (pro-communist/opposition), the Organisation for Popular and Democratic Action (left/opposition). Delegates for the PLO and the Palestinian State, the secretary general of the Arab Human Rights Organisation, and the Algerian Human Rights League and League for the Defense of Human Rights took the floor in support of the OMDH action.

The two-day congress elected its new bodies and adopted a general communique and a series of recommendations.

Sudan

Khartoum Denies Rearrest of Former Prime Minister
*NC1405102391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (MENA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese culture and information minister and the Sudanese government's official spokesman, has denied reports that former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who was released recently, has been rearrested.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Khartoum, the Sudanese spokesman emphasized that al-Mahdi and all recently released political detainees are free to engage in political activities and are not restricted in any way in their travel, domestic or international.

The Sudanese spokesman also denied a claim in a Arab Lawyers Association statement yesterday that political detainees still exist in Sudanese prisons. The spokesman stressed that all 299 detainees have been released.

Detainees Allowed To Engage in Politics, Travel
*NC1505151791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1141 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 15 May (MENA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and information, said today that all political detainees in Sudan, including former Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, leader of the defunct Sudanese Communist Party, will be allowed to engage in political activities and also to run in the Sudanese National Assembly elections.

The minister added that there have been 299 detainees, and all of them will be allowed to travel freely within the country and abroad.

Ministers Approve Judicial Agreement With Libya
*EA1205085291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1627 GMT
11 May 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—An agreement on judicial cooperation between Sudan and Libya was approved by the Council of Ministers in a meeting held here today. Culture and Information Minister (and) the government's official spokesman, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, said the council had affirmed that the signing of the agreement constituted a significant stage in the proper way for finalising the stage of integration between Sudan and Libya. "It is also a step forward for the unification of legislation and judiciary in the two countries," said the spokesman. He added that the agreement involved the strengthening of the judicial protection for the people living in the two countries. It also contained the simplifying of legal proceedings and the provision of judicial assistance, in addition to other judicial matters, concluded the spokesman.

Bahrain**British Defense Official Meets With Amir**

JN1405173591 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Manama, May 14 (GNA) [GULF NEWS AGENCY]—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received here today British Secretary of Defence Procurement Alan Clark and the accompanying delegation, currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting took up a general review on the latest developments in the Gulf region following the Gulf war.

During the audience, the amir of Bahrain also highlighted the significant role played by the British forces within the framework of the international coalition set up to liberate Kuwait and restore the rights of the Kuwaiti people. Points of view on enhancing relations between the two countries and issues of mutual concern were also exchanged during the audience.

Present at the audience were Bahraini Defence Minister and deputy commander-in-chief of the Defence Force, Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, and the British Ambassador to Bahrain Alan Shepherd.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1505113891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Manama, 14 May (WAKH)—Alan Clark, British secretary of defense procurement, and his delegation left here this evening after a two-day visit to Bahrain.

During his visit, the British secretary held talks on bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them, spheres of cooperation, and the latest developments in the Gulf arena.

He was seen off by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief; the British ambassador to Bahrain; and senior Defense Force officers.

Qatar**Kuwaiti Defense Minister Arrives From Bahrain**

JN1205181791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1727 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Doha, 12 May (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah arrived in Doha today from Bahrain on a tour of a number of the region's states.

He was received by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, and senior officials.

Concludes Visit 13 May

JN1305123391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Doha, 13 May (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah left Doha this morning following a two-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of regional countries.

The Kuwaiti minister held talks with senior Qatari officials on the situation in the Gulf arena in particular, as well as issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia**Further on Visit of Soviet Foreign Minister****Statements to Journalists**

LD1405203191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1805 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 14 May (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said that the meeting of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh included important and intensive discussions.

In a statement to journalists when seeing off the guest minister at the airport today, his royal highness said: These discussions were based on bilateral relations which have started on good bases for expanding these relations on all economic, political, cultural, and technical levels. He added: The most important level reached by the relations between the two countries has been crowned by the important meeting between the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Soviet foreign minister.

His royal highness said that the Soviet foreign minister's visit to the Kingdom was not only important for the content of the discussions but also in view of its being a historic moment, as it represented the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His royal highness said: Therefore, we are very pleased at this beginning of discussions at such a high level. We have agreed to hold more consultations and meetings at this level between our two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that although relations between the two countries were resumed only recently, the level of contacts and the expansion of relations between the two countries are already apparent.

He said: "We have cooperated and coordinated our two policies during a big crisis in the region—the occupation of Kuwait—and, to a large extent, the good results attained were built on this cooperation between the Kingdom and the Soviet Union."

His highness expressed his aspiration to see this cooperation and coordination continue in order to do what can be done to help the peace process in the Middle East.

Answering a question on the efforts made by the United States and the Soviet Union for finding a solution to the Palestinian question, particularly the convening of a peace conference, his highness underlined the Kingdom's support for the two superpowers in their joint efforts in the peace process in the region.

His highness said: "We have seen the great fruits yielded by this cooperation in the Arab Gulf crisis, and I am sure that this cooperation will play a role, with the same importance, in connection with the Middle East crisis."

Concerning economic cooperation between the Kingdom and the Soviet Union, his highness the foreign minister said: "We have in fact established cooperation between us on several levels, in the economic and trade domains, and yesterday we discussed the setting up of exhibitions between our two countries. And we are encouraging investors here to invest in the Soviet Union, and perhaps set up joint projects."

His highness stressed that, at government level, agreement was reached on several possible fields of trade cooperation during the visit to the Kingdom by the Soviet trade minister a few months ago, and that considerable financial cooperation between the two countries exists.

His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal said that matters are proceeding well, in view of the fact that the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries is only recent.

For his part, his excellency the Soviet foreign minister said: "I held important talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, as well as intensive talks with his highness the foreign minister. I am very satisfied with the results of the talks." He pointed out that the discussions covered the basic topics in the region, including the situation in the Arab Gulf. He added: "We found that our viewpoints were similar, possibly even identical, concerning the basic requirements of the region. We are very satisfied with the Saudi Government's reaction to the efforts being made by the United States, the Soviet Union, and other states for holding a conference on peace in the Middle East."

His excellency the Soviet minister said that the discussions on bilateral relations were very useful because this is the first time that a Soviet foreign minister has visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, it provided a brilliant opportunity to discuss various matters pertaining to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

He expressed satisfaction at finding readiness and willingness at all levels in the Kingdom to develop bilateral cooperation and relations. He said: "This is also how we

feel, and thus I see an opportunity for the two countries for more good relations in all spheres."

He pointed out that agreement has also been reached to promote contacts and exchange views regarding important issues which could emerge suddenly.

The Soviet foreign minister added that agreement was reached to exchange more visits between the two countries.

At the end of his statement, Bessmertnykh extended an invitation to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to visit the Soviet Union.

The Soviet foreign minister said that current efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict are considered a great opportunity, of which advantage must be taken.

In a press statement made after his arrival in Riyadh, he said: We have a great and good opportunity to start peace talks. He pointed out that the officials he had met supported the starting of peace talks.

Although he expressed optimism regarding the results of the current efforts, he said: There are some difficulties, but we must not lose patience. We must continue our efforts and must not miss this opportunity.

He stressed the need to continue the efforts to convene the proposed peace conference, saying: We, together with the U.S. secretary of state, will endeavor to push this forward. The Soviet minister did not venture to express his expectation of the results of the current efforts. He simply said: I am optimistic. He reaffirmed the need to overcome some difficulties.

Talking about his visit to the Kingdom, Bessmertnykh said: This is the first visit ever by a Soviet foreign minister to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He described Saudi-Soviet relations as developing.

He pointed out that his talks with officials in the Kingdom would deal with many issues, foremost among which would be the situation in the Middle East and in the Arabian Gulf region, and relations between the two countries.

For his part, Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal described the Soviet foreign minister's visit to the Kingdom as historic. He said: This is the first time that a Soviet foreign minister has visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and we are very pleased at that. On behalf of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the government and people of the Kingdom, his royal highness welcomed Bessmertnykh to the Kingdom as his country's representative.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by the Soviet Union concerning the aggression of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait. His royal highness said: Without the Soviet Union's contribution, we would not have been able to reach the international solidarity which was achieved.

His royal highness praised the endeavors and efforts of the Soviet Union to resolve the Middle East issue. His royal highness said that there is now an opportunity to move forward toward peace and stability.

He pointed out that the Soviet foreign minister's visit represents an opportunity to exchange views. He said: The Soviet minister has made a tour in the region, and maybe he has gained some results concerning how we could all move toward peace in the region.

His royal highness repeated his welcome for the Soviet minister's visit to the Kingdom, saying: We are looking forward to fruitful talks, not only on the important issues in the region but also on the developing relations between the two countries.

Cooperation on Gulf 'Positive'

*LD1405212191 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Riyadh, May 14, SPA—Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, said today Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh had held intensified and important talks with custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The Soviet foreign minister left Riyadh today following a brief visit to the Kingdom.

The visit of Bessmertnykh to the Kingdom is of great significance because it is the first visit for a Soviet foreign minister to the Kingdom, said Prince Sa'ud. We have agreed to conduct further consultations and meetings, he added. He noted that the Kingdom and the Soviet Union had cooperated and coordinated their policies during the Arab Gulf crisis and the outcome of the cooperation and coordination was positive to a great extent. We are looking forward to continue cooperation and coordination between the two countries so as to positively contribute to the process of peace in the Middle East, said Prince Sa'ud. Asked about the efforts exerted by the U.S. and the Soviet Union to bring about peace in the Middle East and settle the Palestinian problem, Prince Sa'ud reiterated the support of the Kingdom to these efforts. He noted that cooperation of the two big powers had yielded positive results during the Arab Gulf crisis. We are hopeful that this cooperation will also yield positive results regarding the settlement of the Middle East problem, he said. Asked about economic cooperation between the Kingdom and the Soviet Union, Prince Sa'ud said the Kingdom will encourage the investors to invest in the Soviet Union and even establish joint projects. We agreed to enhance cooperation at the governmental level during the visit of the Soviet trade minister to the Kingdom few months ago, he said.

For his part, Bessmertnykh expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his talks with the monarch. We have reviewed a number of topics including the situation in the Arab Gulf region, he said. "Our views were nearly

identical", he added. Bessmertnykh expressed satisfaction over the response of the Saudi Government to the efforts exerted by the U.S., the Soviet Union and other countries to pave the way for the convening of the international peace conference in the Middle East. I have noticed that the Saudi officials are keen on enhancing bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, he said. Bessmertnykh has extended an invitation Prince Sa'ud to visit the Soviet Union.

Defense Minister, UK's Heseltine Hold Talks

*LD1405222891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1833 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 14 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, this evening received His Excellency the British Minister for the Environment Mr. Michael Heseltine, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Fahd Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Sa'ud, deputy minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation affairs, and the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Mr. Alan Munro. During the meeting, there was a discussion on a number of issues of common interest. At the end of the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and the British minister exchanged souvenir gifts.

Mr. Michael Heseltine arrived in Riyadh earlier today. He was welcomed by His Highness Prince Fahd Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Sa'ud; the British ambassador to the Kingdom, and the commander of the Riyadh military air base, Staff Brigadier General of the Air Force, Zubun al-Rugi.

His Highness Prince Fahd Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Sa'ud, and the British minister held a meeting today at which discussions focused on issues related to the environment and cooperation between the two countries in this domain. They also dealt with pollution in the Arabian Gulf, the result of the oil slick caused by the Iraqi regime following the sabotage it committed during its occupation of Kuwait.

During the meeting, there was also a review of the efforts made by the Kingdom to contain the effects of pollution and to clean up waters and shores, as well as the role assumed by the friendly states and the international organizations in this matter.

The meeting was attended by the British ambassador to the Kingdom and the delegation accompanying the British minister.

King Fahd, Bush Hold Telephone Conversation

*LD1205180391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT
12 May 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, last night received a telephone call from U.S.

President George Bush. They exchanged cordial remarks about bilateral relations between the Kingdom and the United States and reviewed current international affairs in the hopes of realizing the interests and benefits of the Arab nation in dealing with its various fateful issues.

King Fahd, Egyptian President Discuss Relations

*LD1205195591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1804 GMT
12 May 91*

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from His Excellency his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The conversation reviewed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, and the development of events on the Arab and international scenes, within the framework of continuing coordination and consultations between the two leaderships on the basic issues interesting the Arab and Islamic nation.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Telephones Egypt's Mubarak on Security

*JN1205180391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT
12 May 91*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a telephone call from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During the call, the two sides exchanged views on developments in the region following the liberation of Kuwait and the efforts to reinforce security and stability in the Gulf region, in addition to the current Arab situation.

The two leaders stressed that the Arab security is an indivisible whole and (?the security) of the Gulf concerns Egypt and the Arab nation.

Yemen

Salih Receives Demand on Amending Constitution

*JN1205151591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member, received a delegation today representing scholars, shaykhs, the Yemeni Grouping Party for Reform [hizb al-tajammu' al-yamani li al-islah], and the League of Sons of Yemen Party [hizb rabitat 'abna al-yaman]. The delegation gave the president a message addressed to him and to the Presidential Council from the participants in the peaceful march organized today in the capital by the Yemeni Grouping Party for Reform and the League of

the Sons of Yemen Party. The message demands amending the Constitution before submitting it for referendum in light of the statement issued by the Presidential Council on 7 Shawwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 22 April 1991. The message also called for improving economic conditions.

The president announced during his meeting with the delegation that the Presidential Council and the government would discuss the demands in the message and pointed out that the Presidential Council statement has stressed a number of firm facts about commitment to the authority of the Islamic shari'a over all legislation and laws issued in the Republic. The Council's statement said the noble Islamic shari'a and its teachings are the basis and source of all legislation in the Yemeni Republic. Accordingly, we shall not under any circumstances accept any legislation which supersedes, contradicts, or infringes the book of God and the teachings of his prophet; that any legislation that contradicts the Islamic shari'a is invalid; and that approving the Constitution through a popular plebiscite unequivocally mean that any legislation or laws that were issued before the establishment of the state of unity and that contradict the Islamic shari'a and the stipulations of the Constitution, are illegitimate.

President Addresses People's Congress Members

*JN1305193091 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has met with the brother leaders of basic centers, groups, and organizations of the General People's Congress in the third constituency in the capital. He acquainted himself with the [word indistinct] of the process of nomination and election of center and group leaders in the constituency.

The brother chairman and secretary general delivered a speech in which he affirmed that the General People's Congress is a popular organization made up of nationalists, independents, and all Yemeni masses who launched the 26 September and 14 October revolutions and who defended the republican system and the gains of the revolution. He indicated that the General People's Congress has sought with all its influence, cadres, and national independent and nonideological elements to translate into action its objectives and principles which are included in the national document—the National Charter—which was approved by a popular referendum. He said this national document was inspired by the people's Islamic belief and cultural heritage, and from the principles and objectives of the Yemeni revolution. He added that this is a source of pride for every member of the Congress, which has a clean record in dealing with others and made great contributions nationally. He said the Congress has never been a satellite of any foreign party; rather, it has an absolute loyalty to God, the

revolution, the republic, the people, and the dear homeland. He said the Congress has offered major contributions to the reunion of the homeland and to achieving a comprehensive awakening in the homeland. He said the Congress has established democratic practice and made great achievements, including security and stability, in the educational sector. The number of students in the republic rose from 220,000 to approximately 2 million. He said: In addition, public services, road networks, and communications have reached all regions in the republic. He also mentioned oil and the [Ma'rib] dam project.

The brother chairman referred to the role played by the General People's Congress members through their groups, districts, centers, and regions in implementing the objectives of the Congress through adherence to the National Charter and the Congress' political action program. He said the Congress members are competing with members of other political parties and organizations honorably and responsibly, without harming others. He said the slogan of the Congress is honesty in dealing with the people and with all political parties, without leveling charges or holding trials on past issues. He said that nothing necessitates a return to the past. He said that on 22 May 1990 we began a new chapter and closed the chapter of the past, with all its demerits and bad events. He added: Now under democracy and political pluralism, we are experiencing a new chapter and a new phase.

The brother chairman explained that the General People's Congress is the forum of all those who believe in Almighty God, the homeland, the revolution, the republic, and the need to maintain Yemeni unity. He indicated that the General People's Congress under its new political program is experiencing a new, distinguished phase of reconstruction and the development of its structure and organizational components on strong and efficient foundations. He said emphasis is being placed on quality in selecting Congress' elements and leaders. He said many tasks await General People's Congress members, including resolving citizens' problems; tackling society's issues; confronting bribery, corruption, and misappropriation of public funds; combating crime in all its forms; resisting whoever wants to harm the people's Islamic belief or the Yemeni revolution; and fighting all forms of subservience or foreign loyalty taking place at the expense of the homeland's interest. He stressed that the General People's Congress, which in word and deed believes in democracy as an option and course, will remain eager to enrich democracy through responsible democratic practice. He said the Congress will continue to believe in the peaceful and democratic transfer of power through the masses' confidence and the ballot boxes. The Congress, he said, will continue to be eager about competition with others, based on its political program, contributions, good conduct, setting of good examples, and renunciation of violence. It will remain eager to absorb all honorable strugglers and independent nationalists who believe in

the book of God, the traditions of His Prophet, the principles of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions, the republican system, and Yemeni unity. He said Yemeni unity is a great historic achievement whose first anniversary will be celebrated by our country on 22 May. He said joining our country's celebration on this occasion will be all good people in the Arab homeland, the Islamic world, and our friends throughout the world.

In conclusion, the president affirmed the need to activate and elect the efficient elements who are capable of assuming the tasks of political action in various basic and leadership strata of the General People's Congress.

Presidential Council Urges Turnout in Referendum

JN1405155191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in the presence of Council of Representatives Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

On the upcoming referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, the Presidential Council called on the masses of Yemeni people to go to votin centers on Wednesday, 15 May, and Thursday, 16 May, to exercise their democratic right and vote on the Constitution in full freedom.

The Presidential Council appealed to citizens to participate so as to render the referendum on the Constitution a success through sound democratic practice, cooperation, and solidarity to protect the interests of our Yemeni people, fulfill their aspirations, safeguard their unity, and build their prosperous future.

The Presidential Council also expressed its satisfaction with the democratic dialogues that were held prior to the referendum and that expressed various views. It also believes that voicing views in a peaceful way and fulfilling the noble objectives of democratic practice are a true expression of the political forces' commitment to providing a suitable climate for political pluralism and allowing the people to express themselves freely on issues that determine their fate and future.

The Presidential Council reiterated its adherence to the principles of its 22 April 1991 statement, which stressed that the tolerant Islamic law is the basis and source of all legislation in the Republic. The statement expresses the Presidential Council's concern about national unity at this stage as well as the current need to direct national efforts to strengthen the pillars of the young Republic of Yemen and adhere to the democratic option based on respect for views—an option that is one of the positive points of the referendum on the Constitution. The Presidential Council is also eager for a successful outcome so that this success can be considered an important additional national achievement in the triumphant march of our people.

Saddam Addresses Al-Fallujah Audience

JN1405180991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited the al-Fallujah district in al-Anbar Governorate this morning. He met with local residents, state and party officials, figures, and tribal chieftains.

Addressing district officials, figures, and tribal chieftains, the leader president said: Under normal circumstances, a man should examine men well to differentiate among them. But under difficult circumstances, good men and leaders should make themselves seen and climb the highest peak to declare themselves.

The president explained: The peak we mean is not a physical thing, but is represented through distinguished principles.

The president thanked God Almighty because good men who declare themselves through distinguished principles are the majority in Iraq. Praise be to God, the president said, those with shaken thinking, faith, and principles are a minority, if they exist at all.

President Saddam Husayn added: Thank God because He gave Iraq men with this level of faith, awareness, determination, and a high level of readiness for sacrifice.

The leader beseeched God Almighty to enable him and the Iraqis to do what is good and what satisfies God Almighty.

At the beginning of the meeting, the president discussed with the district's chief administrative official the services offered by state departments and the difficulties facing them. The local official explained to the president the situation in the district and praised the cooperation between citizens and the state departments. He added that the people of al-Fallujah, like all Iraqis, were and continue to be faithful to the revolution. He said confidence in principles has not been shaken in the least by the 30-state aggression or the plotting of agents.

The head of the party's organization in the district noted the stands of the city's population and their adherence to their leader and homeland during the aggression.

President Saddam Husayn received the district's tribal chieftains and figures, who said that if the U.S. aggression has managed to destroy some establishments, it failed to destroy souls or to harm the love of the people for the leader.

The audience affirmed that the shameful conduct of the United States, Britain, and France is not new, since these states have a known history of colonialist behavior. They also referred to the acts of sabotage carried out by saboteurs through collusion with infiltrators from beyond the border.

Then, from the balcony of the building of the district's chief administrative officer, the president greeted the

city's population who came to welcome him and to express happiness to meet him. They chanted popular songs expressing love for their leader and readiness to continue the march under his victorious banner, the banner of national reconstruction, pride, and dignity.

Rebel Radio—U.S. Forces Fire at Zakho Marchers

NC1505085591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 0442 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Thousands of our people protested the open collusion the United States is showing to the ruling gang in Baghdad in allowing the regime's forces to reenter Zakho gradually on the pretext that they are a police force, attacking the assembly point of those forces at the city's police station. According to a preliminary report we have received, 10 of Saddam's forces at the station were injured in the attack, which followed angry demonstrations our people staged in Zakho. The demonstrators also smashed windows and destroyed a number of the regime's vehicles. U.S. forces rushed to the defense of the regime's forces, raining down a hail of bullets on the demonstrators and assaulting dozens of others with rifle butts. The number of casualties resulting from the U.S. assault is still unknown.

The U.S. forces have handed over the management of one of the camps they established to UN officials. Numerous UN officials have stressed that the United Nations is not responsible for providing for or guaranteeing protection to the Iraqi refugees.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace Violations

JN1405204991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] New York, 14 May (INA)—U.S. aircraft have continued their violation of Iraqi airspace for the purpose of surveillance and harassment. Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said in a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general today that the overall U.S. air activities for 12 and 13 May are comprised of six individual sorties violating Iraqi airspace from Turkey. He said that the aircraft speed reached 720 km per hour at various altitudes when they overflew the Mosul, Irbil, and Dahuk areas.

Paper Cites Barzani's Statement on Baghdad Talks

JN1405183591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
13 May 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has said that his talks in Baghdad have crossed an important step on the path to a solution to the Kurdish question that strengthens national unity, and that the two sides are nearing a final accord. In a statement issued in Baghdad, AFP quoted Barzani, who leads the delegation of four Kurdish parties, as saying: We are nearing, with steady steps, the final accord, which will be announced in the next few days.

Mas'ud Barzani added that everything is proceeding satisfactorily, noting that the two sides' delegations met yesterday in the presence of all their delegations and discussed the results of the meetings of the joint delegations charged with preparing the documents on the issues related to national unity and to the implementation of the 1970 agreement on autonomy in Kurdistan and the return of Kurdish citizens.

Barzani described his meeting the day before yesterday with President Saddam Husayn as very positive. He added: I discussed with his excellency important issues to reinforce Kurdish-Arab fraternal relations.

On the absence of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, from the second round of negotiations, Mas'ud Barzani said that he would return to Baghdad if his presence becomes necessary.

In another development, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general for relief and aid affairs, met in Baghdad yesterday with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan. Citing sources close to the UN secretary general's envoy, AFP said that the talks dealt with the situation of the Kurdish evacuees, particularly the methods to increase relief aid to them.

Rebel Radio on Kurdish Demands

*NC1505155491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] According to press sources in London, the Kurdish delegation led by Mas'ud Barzani, who is in Baghdad now, has demanded that the Iraqi flag, the republic's emblem, the state's system, and the ruling regime be replaced. The delegation called for enabling the Kurds to take part in drawing up government policy and drafting the official decision according to their proportion in Iraqi society.

The press sources added that the autonomous rule plan submitted by the Kurdish delegation stressed the need for establishing a new government to prepare for general elections in the country.

Paper Condemns Exploitation of Kurdish Issue

*JN1405075691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic conspiracy which was behind the aggression against Iraq is now reemerging in an attempt to achieve the objectives which it earlier failed to achieve regarding the fragmentation of Iraq, tearing it apart, and making it live over a volcano of sectarian and racist wars.

In an editorial published today, the paper adds: All parties are aware of these facts. However, they have chosen to persist in their conspiratorial line, a matter that shows that this triangle has not only conspired

against Iraq but also aims to disregard the world community's rights and sentiments.

The paper goes on to say: The maneuvers and hostile practices being staged against Iraq, using the pretext of the Kurdish issue have, in the wake of the meetings held, become no more than blatant aggressions. This is because the Kurds themselves have made up their minds in a manner that robs all parties of any excuses for interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the methods being used by the leaders of the conspiracy against Iraq are condemned on their face. This is because the Kurds who live on Iranian and Turkish territory are nowadays living under tyrannical authorities which prevent them from exercising their most basic rights in life and from expressing themselves and their national aspirations, the paper adds.

The paper affirms that this status requires those who profess to be pursuing humanitarian and legitimacy causes to play their role and show credibility, if they have any left, considering all they have done thus far.

The paper affirms that our Kurdish people, who have rejected and will continue to reject these malicious political methods, will abandon neither their principles nor their affiliation to this great homeland. Besides, the paper concludes, the attempts of the hostile triangle will fail as they failed in the past when they wagered on the Kurdish issue for many long years with the aim of weakening Iraq.

Iraqis To Attend 'Next Pilgrimage Season'

*JN1205171091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT
12 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—Iraqi pilgrims will stand together with their brothers in religion in the sacred house of God during the next pilgrimage season.

This was announced by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi. He told INA that the Cabinet has tasked the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs to establish regulations for the pilgrims' travel.

The culture and information minister said that during its session, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, the cabinet recommended a draft law for industrial investment in both the private and mixed sectors.

The minister explained that the law differs from the current one because it includes many exemptions and positive points for projects to be implemented under it, such as exemption from taxes for 10 years.

He added that the new investment law will allow Arab citizens to establish industrial projects and that it includes other organizational procedures to facilitate and encourage investment in the private sector.

The culture and information minister added that the cabinet also discussed the issue of authorizing the ministers to accept employees' resignations, grant them retirement, and relieve unqualified ones from their posts.

Generation Begins at Al-Dawrah's Fifth Unit

*JN1505113391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The fifth unit at the al-Dawrah thermal power station began generating electrical power with a 160-megawatt capacity last night.

In a statement to INA, the director of the station reconstruction project said that the operation of this unit will stabilize the electrical system of the national grid throughout Iraq, particularly in the city of Baghdad. He noted that work is under way to reconstruct and operate three more units, each with a 160-megawatt capacity.

The fifth unit at the al-Dawrah thermal power station has been exposed to aggression on two occasions: once during the Iranian aggression in 1980, after which it was rebuilt and became functional again in 1983; and the second time during the air bombardment by the American-Atlantic-Zionist planes in January.

AL-THAWRAH on Baker's Middle East Mission

*JN1505105991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the objective of Baker's Middle East mission is to consecrate the Zionist entity, strengthen its pillars and infrastructures, and secure Arab recognition of Israel as a fait accompli.

In an article today under the headline "Baker's Mission and the Logic of Settlement, the American Way," the paper says: What the United States has been seeking over the past four decades, and is still seeking, is to make Tel Aviv a genuine part of the region and to consecrate it as a Middle Eastern state, accepted and recognized by the Arabs.

The paper adds: Since the October 1973 war, the American role has been seeking to achieve the objectives of the plot to this end, without thinking that this time in particular will witness the signing of the accords of official Arab recognition of Israel.

The paper notes that America knows full well that such recognition is not difficult and that it is dealing with an Arab nation that is ready to relinquish even the last fig leaf to satisfy Washington.

The paper says: What the United States is basically concerned about is to convince the Arab people that the settlement fait accompli is a just and important peace that will bring prosperity to the Arabs, end their wars, and avert the evils.

The paper adds: Based on this, America proceeds from the fact that any settlement will not succeed or last if it is confronted by any popular rejection, and that it will vanish and end with the first popular revolt against any regime that agrees to it.

The paper points out: Within this framework, the United States seeks to pave the psychological and ideological grounds for Israel's acceptance among the Arabs as a fait accompli and that there is no alternative to accepting and dealing with it. This is why Baker's efforts to achieve part of the more ambitious objectives are based on America's belief that after its aggression against Iraq, the road has become open to achieve these objectives.

The paper adds: What the United States is doing these days is relying in its plan on the Arab regimes that allied themselves with it against Iraq in order to carry out a violent psychological invasion of the Arab masses' awareness, whose objectives go far beyond the consecration of the logic of settlement to that of specifying the nature of this settlement in a way that would secure Arab recognition of Israel, including the normalization of relations with Tel Aviv, provided that the enemy will keep all the occupied Arab territories, and that any talk about the Palestinian people's rights or the Palestinian state will be over.

The paper adds: Baker's current mission focuses on entrenching these objectives in the short run, thus making the possibility of signing any limited agreements irrelevant in the current American plan.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Baker's current mission will face a real fiasco if it fails to entrench the logic of settlement in our masses's awareness, and if it finds that all that it has worked for with Tel Aviv against us was only a mirage that is rejected by the logic of history and the cultural awareness of the Arab nation.

AL-'IRAQ Calls on U.S., Allies To Leave

*JN1505091091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0648 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has called on America and its allies to take their camps and leave Iraq.

In an article published today, the paper says: Our Kurdish people have frankly, strongly, and honorably rejected the foreign camps of (humiliation), because they know full well that they constitute a dirty means to undermine the unity and sovereignty of their homeland.

The paper adds: The one Iraqi people, Kurds, Arabs, and other fraternal ethnic minorities, who are unified under the banner of symbol leader Saddam Husayn, are today standing with a unified will to reconstruct, struggle, and offer sacrifices. They have unlimited readiness to confront any foreign attempt to interfere in their internal affairs or encroach on their sovereignty.

The paper says: Our Kurdish people have achieved their national and Iraqi identity. They have also rejected, condemned, and denounced the foreign camps of (humiliation) to prove that the Iraqis are one people, one will, one strength, and one struggle, and to show that the aggressors must leave and take their disgraceful camps with them, especially since their evil intentions have been exposed.

The paper notes: The Kurdish people do not need their charitable donations that are mixed with disgrace, agency, and aggression. The United Nations must prove its credibility to maintain states' policies and peoples' independence.

The paper refers to the proposal to dispatch an international police force. It says: The international police force must be deployed in Ireland to protect the Irish people from the killings and physical liquidations conducted by the British authorities of terrorism; in Palestine to protect the Palestinian Arab people from the daily physical liquidations conducted by the fascist Zionist enemy; in the United States to protect the blacks and Indians, the original inhabitants of America, from the harshness of racial discrimination; and in France to protect Arab workers from racial discrimination.

Concluding, the paper says: If the United Nations really wants to prove its credibility, it must put on trial Bush and all the despicable persons who shared with him the crime of aggression against Iraq, and charge them as war criminals.

Paper on U.S. 'Criminal Scheme' Against Country

JN1505151491 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic
13 May 91 p 1

[By the political editor]

[Text] Under the slogan of international legitimacy, the United States wants Iraq to pay reparations, repay its loans, and pay in cash for its food and medicines.

Without any international legitimacy, the United States imposes a ban on Iraq to prevent it from exporting its oil, to keep its assets abroad frozen, and to continue the ban on economic dealings with it.

The British newspaper, THE INDEPENDENT, says that the United States and Britain are working to prevent Iraq from exporting around \$1 billion worth of oil so that it could buy the food required for the Iraqi people. The two countries are now trying to block letters of guarantee that would allow Iraq to import goods.

Under the slogan of international legitimacy, the United States wants Iraq to withdraw its troops 10 km from the border with Kuwait so that UN forces can deploy in their place.

Without international legitimacy, the United States expects Iraq to allow the entry of U.S., British, French,

and other Western forces into its territory in the north under the pretext of setting up what is called a secure zone for the Kurds.

The United Nations has announced that Iraq has performed its international commitments and that the region separating Iraq from Kuwait has been established and the international observers group has taken up its position there. The United Nations also signed an agreement with Iraq under the cover of international legitimacy to facilitate the return of Kurds to their regions in northern Iraq. The return process actually started amid great security and in the atmosphere created by the Iraqi decree pardoning all Kurdish citizens.

Many paradoxes and contradictions are being prepared and implemented on the international scene while the United Nations and its big, medium, and small countries, and political, economic, military, and humanitarian bodies, sit back and watch. Nobody is lifting a finger to ask what the role of the United Nations is, through which the preparation and then the waging of the war on Iraq took place. Nobody says that Iraq is a sovereign member of the United Nations that is being subjected to individual revenge led by the United States and Britain without any justification, after Iraq agreed to all Security Council resolutions, which are being implemented according to schedule.

The United States and its allies rallied the whole world and waged the largest and fiercest war humanity has ever witnessed against Iraq, because it entered Kuwait. It used international legitimacy as a cover to implement its criminal scheme against Iraq.

Would the world be enraged to see U.S. and Western forces openly and shamelessly occupy a part of southern Iraq for a period of time, and other forces within the same group occupy a part of northern Iraq, without resorting to international legitimacy or having a reasonable excuse?

Then what is required of Iraq, and what is to be implemented against it?

British Prime Minister John Major impudently says that all this will continue as long as President Saddam Husayn is in power in Iraq. Saddam Husayn did not come to power by an outside decision so that the foreigners would ask for his removal from power. Saddam Husayn is a president of a sovereign republic that has a constitution, is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Nonaligned Movement, and has diplomatic and economic relations with most countries. Is there any international law or moral consideration in international relations that permits a foreign state to interfere in the decisions of an independent country and in the nature of the political system in it? Moreover, what is the relationship between the rancorous aspirations of the British prime minister and the will of the international community, which sees the extent of oppression and injustice inflicted upon an entire people as a result of imposing a comprehensive

economic embargo on them, and forbidding them from exporting their oil and importing their necessities of food, medicine, and children's milk?

Paradoxes, contradictions, and conspiracies threaten the life and sovereignty of the entire Iraqi people. The tragedy is that all this is taking place completely openly and impudently on the international arena. Those who grieve for humanity, human rights, and sovereignty in Kuwait and northern Iraq are themselves the producers, actors, and executors of what is occurring against Iraq, which is a part of the international community. The rest, however, chose to commit themselves to the proverb that says: Words are of silver, but silence is golden.

UN Informed of Iranian Encroachments

*JN1405193991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1836 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] New York, 14 May (INA)—Iraq today officially informed the United Nations of further incidents of Iran's violations of the cease-fire between the two countries. An INA correspondent in New York said that 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, has sent three messages to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar saying that these violations express again Iran's insistence on encroaching against Iraq's sovereignty and security in a premeditated manner.

Al-Anbari added: Iraq noted the responsibility of the Iranian Government for all the damage resulting from these violations and calls on Iran to return captured Iraqi soldiers. He said: On 4 May, Iranian infiltrators attacked an Iraqi Army company between al-Zayadi and Tariq border posts and captured a number of personnel.

'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari said in his messages to the UN secretary general that on 4 April, the Iranian side occupied three vantage points in the Zurbatiyah area. An Iranian force estimated at one regiment attacked the Zarkush border post and was deployed [infatahat] on the international border in the central sector.

'Strict Security Measures' Claimed in Baghdad

*NC1505152591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 0442 GMT 15 May 91*

[Excerpts] Out of its persistent fear that our revolutionaries might extend their [word indistinct] activity to Baghdad, the regime continues to adopt strict security measures inside the city and in its outskirts. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, more of the regime's henchmen, including senior party officials, diplomats, and military and security personnel, have sent written and oral messages to our revolutionaries expressing their willingness to cooperate and abandon the regime as soon as they receive a signal to this effect.

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

Baker, Shamir, Arens Meet

TA1505111991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] The talks between Secretary Baker and the prime minister and defense minister will resume at the Prime Minister's Office in about ninety minutes. The three met this morning and decided to adjourn the meeting after about two hours. One of the people close to the talks told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the fact that the talks will continue indicates the sides have something to discuss. He refused to say whether progress was achieved at the talks.

Our correspondent notes that Foreign Minister Levi may join the talks in the afternoon. He is slated to return to Israel in about one hour.

Palestinians Raise 'Toughest Issues'

TA1405195091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1930 GMT 14 May 91

[Report by Udi Segal from the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] At 2150 the U.S. secretary of state left the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem after a three-hour meeting with a Palestinian delegation. The three Palestinians, Hannan 'Ashrawi from Ramallah, Faysal al-Husayni from East Jerusalem, and Zakariyya al-Agha from the Gaza Strip, left approximately 10 minutes ago. Of the three, only Faysal al-Husayni approached the press and made a statement, although he refused to answer questions. He said that this was a long meeting—it lasted three hours—during which the toughest issues were discussed. He claimed that at issue was the attainment of a comprehensive and just peace arrangement, and he said that they will report to the PLO leadership in Tunis on what has happened, after which consultations will be held.

We have shown flexibility, said al-Husayni, but there are obstacles not on our side. He called on the Israeli people to apply pressure on their government to show the same flexibility. [passage omitted]

Return to Original Plan Sought

TA1505044191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 15 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Diplomatic sources say Israel will ask Baker to go back to his original plan of talks between Israel and her Arab neighbors under the auspices of the United States and the USSR, and without UN participation. The sources say that only after Syria insisted on UN participation did Baker begin pressuring Israel on the issue. [passage omitted]

New Mobile Homes at Jerusalem Area Settlement

TA1405193291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Thirty-one new small mobile homes were spotted today on a hill near the settlement of Giv'on, north of Jerusalem. The Construction and Housing Ministry claims that they are meant to solve the housing shortage in that settlement. In reaction, Yehi'el Leqet, the cochairman of the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department, said that there are grounds to suspect that the construction minister's plan to set up mobile homes in the territories conflicts with the law. Leqet believes the stationing of mobile homes on land given to the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department is nothing but trespassing. He asked the Jewish Agency's legal adviser to examine the possibility of suing anyone who stations mobile homes on its land and to check into Minister Sharon's responsibility.

In a cable to the prime minister, the Peace Now movement announced that if the new settlement, as it called it, at Giv'on is not removed, this will prove that the Shamir government set it up to disrupt the chances of convoking a peace conference.

In reaction to Yehi'el Leqet's remarks, the Construction and Housing Ministry spokesman told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that all construction work and the stationing of mobile homes are done in accordance with the licenses issued by the local councils' statutory committees.

Ze'ev Haver, spokesman for the Amana movement [Gush Emunim's settlement branch], said that the complaints of Peace Now and Yehi'el Leqet are meant to exert pressure on the government precisely during James Baker's visit in Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 14 May reports that "Matityahu Droblis, cochairman of the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department, welcomed today's expansion work at the new site at Giv'on, north of Jerusalem. He claimed that the work followed a blueprint decided upon and approved many years ago."]

Deputy Foreign Minister Comments

TA1505060491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 15 May 91

[Telephone interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy foreign minister, by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Could you please comment on the expansion of the settlement of Giv'on? Is it part of some political plan or is it unrelated to James Baker's visit?

[Netanyahu] I have been listening to the explanations on the radio, just as you have. I do not think this was a planned government action; in fact, I was not aware of such a plan and, I believe, neither were many others. In

any event, what is apparently involved is the expansion of a settlement, based on old and approved plans.

On a more general plane, it seems to me that this issue is being used as an excuse. Today, upon the U.S. secretary of state's arrival, what Israel is prepared to do is absolutely clear. It is still prepared to go to negotiations with the Arab countries. It has gone a long way to enable the Arab countries to come to the negotiating table. I do not think anybody should delude himself that if the Arab countries are not coming to the negotiating table—and we will shortly hear whether they will or not—the reason is a couple of mobile homes atop some hill in Samaria. This is not the reason.

[Golan] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, the question is whether this is the right time to place mobile homes atop hills and provide people with an excuse to blame us for the failure of the negotiations, if that is indeed the case.

[Netanyahu] You just said it yourself. If anything, this is merely an excuse. I do not think the people who carry out these actions are seeking publicity or are guided by political motives. On the other hand, guided by such motives, the Arabs could take advantage of these events to explain why they are not coming to the negotiations, but this would merely be an excuse.

[Zissowitz] Based on political considerations—which are not the considerations guiding the people who put up the mobile homes—and so as not to provide them with such an excuse, would it not have been proper to put off the expansion of the settlement by a few days until after the visit, so as not to affect its chances of success?

[Netanyahu] I will not discuss considerations to which I was not a party. All I will say is that all of us must today focus on the basic question of whether the Arabs are prepared to come to negotiations or not. They have been posing new conditions—we will yet hear the details from the U.S. secretary of state—for not coming to the negotiations day in and day out.

[Golan] Do you share the feeling that the window of opportunity Baker mentioned when he launched this effort will actually be shut soon?

[Netanyahu] It need not be shut soon; there are no deadlines beyond which the window must be shut.

[Golan] Baker says this will be his last visit.

[Netanyahu] This may or may not be his last visit; there may be other visits after a certain interval. I do not think that the Gulf war and all its repercussions are over. The war was a turning point, and the Arabs must understand that there is no going back to the waging of wars without having to pay a price. A leader may sometimes be lucky—and Saddam Husayn was just that, because he was spared physical elimination, if not his elimination from power, only because the United States decided so. The Arab countries must understand that they may face similar risks if they pursue the path of war. Israel has always realized

that the price of war is high and unwanted, and that is why it has put forth concrete proposals.

[Golan] The question is what will be the price exacted from us if the political negotiations fail. Do you foresee the possibility that the United States may blame us—albeit not exclusively—for the failure and consequently curtail the economic aid we expect to receive to absorb Soviet immigrants?

[Netanyahu] First of all, this would be totally unjustified because Israel has been continuously raising various proposals to meet the Arabs' demands, such as a regional parley, Soviet participation, and the issue of European participation, which is currently being discussed. We also said that if Syria does not show up we would be prepared to go along with Jordan alone, with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We have said and we are still saying all this. Therefore, such an accusation would be unjustified, because if anyone has not been forthcoming it has been the Arabs.

As for being blamed for the failure, somebody may try to do that. I have just spent one and a half days in London, during which I gave four or five interviews. Based on the questions posed to me, my feeling is that we are not having a hard time explaining and clarifying our position. As I just told you, I do not think that anybody will effectively be able to blame Israel because the reality of the situation is that it is not Israel that is thwarting the negotiations. The Arabs are the ones who are being urged today to come to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Variations on Peace Conference Format Discussed

TA1305145491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 13 May 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Baker will arrive in Israel on Tuesday afternoon. Jerusalem has become increasingly pessimistic over the last two days. This feeling has been nourished by the statements issued in Cairo about the significant differences that still remain between the positions of Israel and Syria.

Following Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's talks here, sources in Israel judged that there had been some moderation in Damascus' attitude. During his visit to Jerusalem, the Soviet foreign minister reported some flexibility in the Syrian position and a readiness to move toward beginning a peace process. This was despite the ongoing pessimism exhibited by Secretary of State Baker regarding the Syrian issue.

Another idea currently being tossed around is a return to a limited conference—in other words, a regional conference without Syrian participation. Such a conference could now be feasible, especially in the wake of the Gulf States' declaration of readiness to send an observer to the conference. Israel is not thrilled with the idea of the

limited conference; sources in Jerusalem believe, however, that it is a viable possibility.

Another issue that may come up for discussion in the talks is a preparatory meeting of foreign ministers. According to information that reached Jerusalem, this idea did not meet with much success in the Arab countries either, and it is therefore difficult to see it being implemented.

Separate Talks With Jordan, Palestinians Considered

TA1405164591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Israel will be prepared for separate negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians if Syria sticks to its rejectionist position and is not more flexible, political sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent Arye Golan tonight. Jerusalem believes that only two things can save Baker's mission: separate negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians, or a symbolic concession by Syria on its demand to convene an international conference under UN auspices. Our correspondent points out that Israel is sticking to its opposition to UN participation in the opening session of the negotiations.

Arens—Country Ready for Direct Talks With Syria

TA1405150191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Israel is prepared to talk with Syria sooner or later, not necessarily in the upcoming conference, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today. Arens added that he does not know if Baker is bringing any news with him. Our correspondent Ge'ula Even heard the defense minister:

Hours before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival in Israel, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel expects to hear from the secretary of state on his meetings in the Arab states. I do not know whether Baker is bringing anything new with him, Arens said, but he is not somebody who gives up quickly and announces failure.

[Begin Arens recording] Baker does not look to me like somebody who gives up. I think he also knows that the Middle East peace process is slow and the work cannot be completed within a fixed period or a short time. I have no doubt that he will continue to make his contribution to advancing the process. [end recording]

The defense minister also referred to the possibility that Syria might not participate in a regional conference, and he stressed that Israel would be ready to talk with Syria any time it wishes.

[Begin Arens recording] We are interested in the Syrians coming to us and conducting direct negotiations. They do not have to come within the framework of a conference. It is best for them to come directly to us. We are ready to negotiate with them. Since they are not prepared for that, we are disappointed. I am sure the day will come when they will conduct direct negotiations with us. [end recording]

The minister stressed that he does not know the contents of the letter that the families of the candidates for deportation presented to the U.S. Embassy, but he pointed out that the policy to deport people who incite murder is correct and that he is convinced that those people have no place here. The minister made the remarks during a visit to an Armored Corps base in the South.

Arens on Importance of Settlement Campaign

TA1205144891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Enthusiastic support for the settlements was voiced today by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in a speech at the Netiv Me'ir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Gadish reports:

[Begin recording] [Gadish] The deterrent power of the State of Israel and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was not affected at all by the Gulf war, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated today. To wit, Arens continued, Iraq did not dare attack Israel with chemical weapons, although it had that capability at its disposal.

This was just one of the miracles mentioned by the defense minister. Other miracles were the liberation of Jerusalem 24 years ago, and the miracle of aliyah taking place before our very eyes.

Minister Arens did not term the settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria a miracle, but pointed out its great importance at a time when Israel is subject to political pressures. The vast and massive settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria, the defense minister said, is an element that strengthens the people conducting the political negotiations, perhaps more than anything else.

[Arens] It speaks louder than any thesis or political argument. This is a simple fact. This is our country and homeland, and it is our right to settle and live in it.

[Gadish] Settlement, aliyah, and the IDF are the means Israel has at its disposal to build the country, the defense minister said. He noted the great contribution of Hesder yeshiva students to the IDF and the country's security. Every IDF brigade I know wants to get these talented youths, he said. [end recording]

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

James Baker Arrives

JN1405113291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic
1100 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short visit to Jordan as part of his fourth tour of the Middle East. Baker will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and will hold talks with senior officials on current efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestine question. Baker was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the director of the Foreign Ministry Political Department, a number of senior officials, and the U.S. ambassador to Amman.

King Husayn, Baker Confer

JN1405163491 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT
14 May 91

[Text] Amman, 14 May (PETRA)— His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met at the lavish Raghadan Palace at noon today. They discussed various aspects of the U.S. peace project.

Baker presented the results of his efforts with the various sides he has contacted so far. He also discussed the U.S. position on what the peace process has attained.

His Majesty King Husayn presented his remarks on the U.S. plan and Jordan's questions about some of its elements. He stressed Jordan's concern to establish a just, comprehensive peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, and commitment to a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy, which guarantees a permanent, balanced solution which all parties would accept.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty's political adviser; His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's military secretary; and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

On the U.S. side the meeting was attended by Roger Harrison, U.S. ambassador in Amman; John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs; Margaret Tutwiler, State Department spokeswoman; and David Welch, head of the Middle East department at the National Security Council.

Brief Press

JN1405155291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic
1510 GMT 14 May 91

[Report on "most important details" of news conference held by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the conclusion of their talks at Raghadan Palace in Amman on 14 May; King Husayn and Baker heard in background speaking in English with superimposed Arabic translation by radio announcer; recorded]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said at the news conference: It is a pleasure to take this opportunity to welcome the U.S. secretary of state on his second visit to Jordan. We held extremely important talks, and I know what brought him to the region once again after a difficult time of consultations with our other colleagues in the region and his return to the United States. I am aware of all contacts and efforts, and I believe that we share a full commitment to the issue of peace in this region, which should have been solved a long time ago.

I believe that the current opportunity to start the peace process to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli struggle and regional peace may not come again. I hope that the others have the same vision and the same feelings. I can say that we will do our best to see an end to the unrest in this region, hoping for a different beginning for all concerned parties, whether Palestinians, Arabs, or Israelis, in an atmosphere of peace and security and to their future advantage.

I know that there remain some issues yet to be discussed. We will remain in touch with our brothers. And as I said earlier, if our brothers the Palestinians contact us to form a joint delegation to handle their issue—that is, the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of this problem—we will look into the matter with concern and a positive spirit.

I would like to say that among the latest developments in the arena is the Gulf Cooperation Council's proclamation that they will be a party to this endeavor. I think that this development is very good. As I had said earlier, the time has come to avoid cliches in order to see who is sincere and committed to the peace effort—just and lasting peace—and who has the courage to launch initiatives and courageous movements to secure a better future for all those concerned and the future generations in this region. The situation will be tough, hard, and difficult, but we will spare no effort for the sake of peace.

For his part, the U.S. secretary of state thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his good hospitality to him and his accompanying delegation during their stay in Jordan. He also thanked him for his statements to journalists. He said: I would like to reiterate what His Majesty King Husayn has said, and say that the United States wishes to do all that it can to set the peace process in the region in motion, and establish a peace that has long been absent in the region, which is in dire need of it.

The U.S. secretary of state expressed his complete satisfaction with what was achieved in the talks between the U.S. and Jordanian teams on one hand, and between him and His Majesty King Husayn on the other hand. Baker thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his sincere desire to achieve a peaceful solution.

More on News Conference

CM1505132091 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 May 91

[News conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the end of their 14 May talks in Amman—recorded]

[Text] [King Husayn] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to see you again. I would like to seize this opportunity to welcome the secretary of state on his second visit to Jordan. We have had an extremely interesting discussion, and I know that what has brought him over to the area once again after a very intense period of consultations with our other colleagues in the Arab world and return to the United States. [sentence as heard] I am aware of all the contacts and all the efforts. I believe we share a total commitment to the cause of peace in this region that is long overdue, and I believe that this chance that now exists for a peace process to start to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli, Arab-Israeli regional peace in this region will probably never come again. I hope that others have the same approach and the same feelings, and I can only say that we will do our utmost to see an end to this state of turbulence in the region and, hopefully, a beginning of a different kind for all concerned—Palestinians, Arabs, Israelis, in an atmosphere of peace and security, with all that it offers in terms of the future.

I know we are not there yet. I know that there is some ground to be covered, and we will be in touch with some of our Arab brethren. As I mentioned earlier, if our Palestinian brothers approach us for a joint delegation to address themselves to the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of this problem, that will be something we will look at very favorably and positively.

I would like to say as well that among the recent developments is the announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council that they will be a part of this effort; I believe this is a very, very positive development. Essentially, what I am saying is that, as I said earlier, it is time to move away from clichés and taboos and to see exactly who is genuinely committed to the cause of peace—a just peace, a lasting peace in this area—and who isn't, and who has the courage to make the necessary gestures and moves to ensure a better future for all concerned and generations to come in this region. This is going to be hard and tough, but let us see what can be done, and certainly we won't be lacking. Thank you.

[Baker] Your majesty, thank you very much, first of all, for your hospitality today, and for entertaining myself and my colleagues here during the course of our visit to

the the region. Thank you, as well, for that very forthcoming statement, and let me simply say by way of echoing what you have said that the United States wants to do anything and everything we can to contribute to the establishment of a process for peace in this region, to the establishment of a peace that has been for so long denied, and which is so badly needed. I appreciate the time and the detailed attention that you have given to the issues today during the course of our discussions and deliberations. I would like to tell my colleagues here with me and the traveling press that has been accompanying us that I am very, very pleased with the discussions, both the discussions we've had in the larger groups, and the discussions we had in the tete-a-tete form today, and I just want to conclude by saying thank you very much for your very forthcoming approach to peace, for your willingness to engage and to receive us here today, and I would be pleased to try and respond to questions as I know you would.

[Reporter] Your Highness, Secretary Baker told us that Syria will not attend the peace conference unless the United Nations has a significant or important role and the conference has continuity. Is that also Jordan's position?

[Husayn] We haven't had a chance to discuss in any great detail with our Syrian brethren their approach. But I believe that all hopefully will be as committed to the cause of peace and will realize the importance of movement as soon as possible. And after all, I believe that in the final analysis when peace is achieved—it will be achieved, God willing—it will end up with Security Council guarantees and with the blessing of the world community in terms of the United Nations. I cannot go into all the details at this stage, but we will hopefully have a chance to discuss them with our Syrian brethren, and all, and I hope that everybody will be there to make their contribution for peace.

[Reporter] What is Jordan's position on those two questions: UN participation and continuity of the conference?

[Husayn] Well, we definitely feel very, very strongly that once the process starts, we can't afford to stand back, and if we do so for any reason, then the side that is responsible for that will have to take a historic responsibility for obstructing a solution to a problem that has affected so many people who over such a long time...[changes thought] and cannot simply wait any longer. [word instinct] UN, well we are talking of 242 and 338 UN resolutions, and I am sure the UN will certainly be there at all stages including the final stage, because 242 does end up with Security Council guarantees and blessings as well as the world's.

[Reporter] Excuse me, but evidently the secretary can have as pleasant a time in Damascus as he had speaking to you. Would Jordan go into peace talks of course with the Palestinians and with Israel if Syria would just stay out?

[Husayn] I personally hope that Syria will not stay out, and I hope that everybody concerned will be there not only in terms of the Arab states immediately surrounding Israel, but also in terms of the Palestinians; after all, it is the root cause of the instability in the region and I think that they have suffered enough and suffered for a such a long time everywhere, and it is about time their problem was addressed. Beyond that there are other factors such as the interest of the whole world as we see it now as evidenced by the fact that the secretary is with us for the second visit in such short stretch of time and the visits of many other important figures in this world to this region. So, we have that as well and beyond that we have also the broadening picture when the Gulf Cooperation Council comes in into it as well, and I am sure that others will come along, too.

[Reporter] I want, Your Majesty, to ask you and Mr. Baker: I mean, if Israel is refusing to negotiate the UN role, the Syrian role, the PLO role, then, what is the nature of Mr. Baker's visit, and what kind of approach can we exercise on Israel in order to apply what's going on?

[Husayn] The first question that I was asked was: Are we ready for peace? We have been ready for peace; we are totally committed to it. We have had very intense, and, I believe, constructive discussions so far. I think that a lot of ground has been covered, and I hope that if any remains to be addressed—and I am not lessening the importance of that—and that will happen in the future.

[Baker] Yes, well, I'll answer the question too, because you addressed it to both of us. Let me say that it is my understanding that all of the parties with whom we have had discussions have agreed essentially to attend a conference sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union for direct negotiations between Israel and the states neighboring Israel, and for direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, the latter negotiations being for the purpose of achieving a comprehensive settlement based on 242 and 338. Now, I think we should not lose sight of the fact that all of the parties have agreed to those specific terms and provisions.

[Reporter] Have you agreed to attend a conference, to sit down and negotiate in a conference as Secretary Baker has just described it? Could you say those words, perhaps?

[Husayn] I can only say that we have not sort of welcomed the secretary just to waste his time and ours. We have been talking substance, and I believe that the situation will become clearer in the near future.

[Baker] Let me make sure that you understand. I am not assuming that there is still not a question out there, because there is with respect to the possibility of a UN role, Ralph. What I am really saying is there is no argument with respect to the sponsorship by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the terms of reference are

all agreed to, and the question of direct negotiations, both Arab states and Israel, and Israel-Palestinians is agreed to.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, can we assume from your answer—or nonanswer, with all due respect—that you will not go to a peace conference if Syria is not there? Is that correct?

[Husayn] I have not said that, either.

[Reporter] You said there are clearly these two problems that divide Israel and Syria: the UN role and the continuity of the conference. Now that you have talked to King Husayn, what would you define as the problems that divide Jordan and Israel?

[Baker] I will let his majesty speak for his majesty's position, obviously.

[Husayn] Well, let me put it this way: I believe that Jordan has been more involved with the Palestinian dimension of this problem than any—historically, in terms of the present, the past, and probably the future. So, obviously that dimension has to be addressed, and it is very, very important to us that it be. Our sense of responsibility towards our Palestinian brethren, be it in the occupied territories or anywhere else, is such as to compel us to suggest that this an opportunity and may be the last for long time to come to address this problem. You asked for a question in terms of how to go from here? Well, obviously we've made it clear that if our Palestinian brethren approach us we will look at that, and we will look at the possibility of a joint delegation if that is the only way to facilitate rapid progress towards a solution. So, that hasn't happened until now, and let us wait and see how it develops [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Palestinian brethren [words indistinct]. Is that the PLO? Are you saying the PLO?

[Husayn] Are you trying to create difficulties?

[Reporter] I am trying to clarify the situation.

[Husayn] I am saying Palestinians, and as far as the Palestinians are concerned, I am talking about the Palestinians as such—all the Palestinian people.

Al-Masri Leaves for Cairo Arab League Session

JN1405191791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic
1800 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman this evening for Cairo to head Jordan's delegation to the 95th ordinary session of the Arab League Council that will begin there tomorrow at the foreign ministers level.

During this session, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is scheduled to be elected as Arab League secretary general. This position has been vacant since last September following

the resignation of former Secretary General Chedli Klibi from his post. In addition, political and international issues and matters related to the general situation in the Arab world and the future of the joint Arab action will be discussed.

Minister's Decision on Sports Days Criticized

JN1405112991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 May 91 p 3

[By the local affairs editor]

[Excerpts] On 30 April, Minister of Education Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akaylah issued a circular to the directors of education at the ministry.

The circular, whose contents the minister said should be precisely and strictly implemented, stipulates that fathers are banned from visiting their daughters' schools on sports days. Visits to girls schools should be restricted to the girls' mothers and to boys schools to their fathers to prevent the two from mixing. [passage omitted]

In discussing this decision, AL-RA'Y is not exceeding the limits of journalistic freedom. A minister, in principle, has the right to take any measure he sees fit to run the affairs of his ministry. It is his right to disagree completely with his predecessor in all his ideas to enhance the performance of his ministry. Otherwise, why is a minister called a minister, responsible for the mistakes of his ministry and for his stands?

Therefore, the press should not take advantage of the stormy criticism of a measure taken by a minister to distort such a measure and put the ministry and the minister in a position that does not serve national interests or the interests of the concerned ministry.

This is why AL-RA'Y did not pause at Minister of Education Dr. al-'Akaylah's decision concerning those who were retired a few days ago, despite the emotional

pressures applied by some readers who sympathize with them. AL-RA'Y chose to respect the education minister's decision because every minister has the right to work with the team he feels is competent and homogeneous so that he can apply his own philosophy in running his ministry.

The measure or decision to prevent parents from visiting schools on sports days, however, is something we do need to pause at. We hope the minister will excuse us if we say that we are not convinced by the reasons he gave for making such a decision.

We hope the education minister will forgive us for exceeding limits and addressing him directly to include the readers with us in this issue.

We realize that Dr. al-'Akaylah, as minister of education, carries one of the heaviest burdens. We sympathize with and support his efforts at modernization. Education issues, however, are not eternal or scientific laws characterized by immortality and correctness. They are studies and applicational attempts that fall within the realm of diligence. They could be right, yet they could be wrong.

The minister's decision to prevent fathers from visiting their daughters' schools, and mothers from visiting their sons' schools, is one of those that are wrong.

An old educationist, one of those who contributed toward entrenching the sports day tradition, has commented on this decision:

"The minister has completely blown apart the philosophy on which the ministry established sports day. The objective of sports day is to create interaction between the family and the school to make them one society. The idea the minister has adopted, it seems, is to prevent any mixing on sports days.

Mixing as such, if one wants to abandon it as a philosophy, does not begin with sports day. [passage omitted]

'Enemy Forces' Said Changing Borders in South

NC1505093091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] People arriving from the south today said that the enemy forces are carving off more Lebanese territory in the eastern sector. These forces have removed the barbed wire and the posts that have marked Lebanon's international borders since 1948 from al-Dardarah plain in the west to al-Majidiyah farm in the east and from Kafr Shuba area and Shab'a farms through (al-Hamamah) hill and Nab' al-Wazzani.

Huge bulldozers are also preparing a new road 2 km inside Lebanese territory in preparation for setting up new borders which will run in a straight line from Tall al-Nahas in the west to the Kafr Shuba area in the east.

The sources also said that the enemy authorities destroyed hundreds of donums which were planted with cereals, vineyards, and trees in the areas which they intend to devour.

The inhabitants of the town of al-Mari protested these measures. The Israelis opened fire at the inhabitants, wounding some of them.

The enemy authorities closed the Zummarayya crossing in both directions today until Monday morning for unknown reasons.

Army Force Leaves for South, Deploys in Tyre

NC1205061591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] A 6th Brigade force composed of 600 soldiers, equipped with armored personnel carriers, field artillery, and anti-aircraft guns, left for the south yesterday and deployed in the town of Tyre. The force will also deploy in al-Zahrani area. It will deploy in the areas of operation of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon later.

Israeli, Lahd Response Cited

NC1305073691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] According to press reports, the occupation forces have specified the quantity and types of weapons that can be used by the army units that arrived in Batir and Mlikh at the approaches to the Jazzin area. The reports say that the aggressors reject the deployment of army

units on the hills of Tumat Niha in upper al-Shawf, on the pretext that these hills are strategic because they overlook Jazzin and the occupied strip.

According to the same reports, the agent Lahd army has set up an observation post on the Jazzin hills to monitor army movements. The post is equipped with searchlights to monitor these movements at night.

Birri Travels to Syria, Meets With Khaddam

NC1405075291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri arrived in Damascus yesterday and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The two sides held an in-depth discussion of developments in Lebanon. The issues discussed were: the south, the ongoing efforts to implement Resolution 425, the army deployment, the special relationship between Lebanon and Syria, the assimilation of the militias, and the appointment of deputies to fill vacant and newly created posts.

Ibrahim Returns, Discusses Dialogue With PLO

NC1105175891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 May 91

[Text] Mediator Muhsin Ibrahim, who returned to Beirut from Tunis via Paris today, has stated that the dialogue between the Lebanese Government and the PLO, which we hope will be held as soon as possible, will reflect the joint interest of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in ensuring the success of the Lebanese national accord process with all the political and security arrangements this entails. It will also reflect their joint interest in liberating the South on the basis of implementing Resolution 425.

Ibrahim emphasized that the principles governing his efforts are connected with Lebanon's stand on the Palestinian issue, which is one of continuous support for this issue and clear backing for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said that this stand reassures Palestinians in Lebanon that, in any forthcoming dialogue with the Lebanese Government, they will be able to discover the points at which the Palestinian people's national rights and their obligations toward the Lebanese accord process and the issue of the liberation of the South meet.

Al-Asad, Bessmertnykh Discuss Peace Efforts

JN1405175391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1730 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] At 1600 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Aleksandr Zotov. Talks centered on the situation, developments in the region, and current efforts to launch a peace process. Bessmertnykh gave a briefing on the results of his talks and contacts during his tour of the region. He also reviewed his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Cairo on the peace process and its mechanism, the role of each state in the proposed conference, and the expected role of the United Nations in the conference.

His excellency the president stressed Syria's strong desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region that can preserve the interests, dignity, and rights of its peoples as based on international legitimacy embodied by UN resolutions. The president also expressed Syria's readiness to continue cooperating with international efforts to launch a serious and genuine peace process. Agreement was reached on the continuation of bilateral contacts and exchange of views.

Bessmertnykh Briefs Press, Departs

JN1405164391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and his delegation left Damascus this evening after a brief visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; the directors of the East European, Protocol, and Information Departments at the Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to journalists, Bessmertnykh said: I greatly value my talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, during which we discussed the situation in the Middle East, the peace efforts, and various aspects of the peace conference. Bessmertnykh expressed satisfaction with his talks in Damascus and described them as simultaneously deep, practical, and comprehensive.

Asked what issues were discussed, Bessmertnykh said: We discussed the issues that would lead to the beginning of a peace conference and the best ways to achieve this. I presented to President Hafiz al-Asad the views I came out with during my tour of the region. We also discussed practical aspects of the peace conference, which were considered the basic concern of the concerned parties. We agreed to maintain contact with the Syrian leadership to give momentum to peace in the region.

Asked if a good idea on the peace conference had been formed, Bessmertnykh said: We formed a good idea on the motives that will lead to the conference. The concept

of the conference is still in the formation and preparation stage, however, because the United States and the USSR do not want to impose anything on the concerned parties. Thus, we hold consultations with all the parties; we put their ideas and reactions in a formula that we will make effective. Therefore, the concept of the peace conference is still in the formation stage. When discussion is held with persons in positions of responsibility and authority, such as President Hafiz al-Asad, the individual obtains new ideas and additional information. Therefore, this process enriches the experience, but we should continue in this way for some time.

Asked if he would leave Damascus for Geneva to meet 'Arafat, Bessmertnykh said: Yes, I intend to meet 'Arafat very soon.

Asked about the results of his tour in the region and if we are closer to the peace conference, he said that every meeting enriches and increases knowledge about the issue and deepens understanding of matters. And our talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on the issue were as important as always. We exchanged views on the basic issues to prepare for the peace conference. At the same time, we studied the bases of the development of events in the region. We agreed to continue intensive contacts and to exchange opinions on the Middle East issue.

Answering journalists' questions, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: As we usually say, if there is no progress, Israel's intransigent policy is to blame. There are two reasons for this: Israeli statements, and Israel's measures in the occupied Arab territories. We believe that we are seeking a just and comprehensive peace. We in Syria support such peace, one based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We believe that the United Nations should be in the conference, and that the conference remain in session. These two factors are extremely important. Without UN participation and without continuity, the peace conference will not be convened under the umbrella of international legitimacy.

We believe that these two demands are not preconditions. They render the peace process fruitful, and this guarantees that all concerned parties will reach positive results. No one can claim or accuse Syria of adopting an intransigent position or making preconditions. When we talk about the role of the United Nations and the continuity of the conference, we mean to support the peace conference and guarantee its success. The Israelis, on the other hand, are trying to place obstacles and they reject the United Nations. They are indeed placing obstacles, for no one can reject the United Nations. After all, the United Nations played a very important role during the Gulf crisis, when the world community observed UN resolutions. It is, therefore, very important to see once again an effective UN role in the peace conference. It is also important for the conference to be in continuing session so as to help all parties reach a genuine peace in the region.

Asked whether Syria agreed to the participation of the Gulf Cooperation Council states in the peace conference, al-Shar' said: I think that all the Arabs have shown sufficient flexibility, which reflects a true desire for a comprehensive peace in the region. All these positions were taken to ensure the success of the peace conference. What matters is that we reach results and implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, there will be no peace, and as long as Israel rejects the UN role, Security Council resolutions, and the principle of land for peace, we, unfortunately, will not be moving toward peace.

Vice President Receives Iranian Labor Minister

JN1205175591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1830 today Hoseyn Kamali, Iran's minister of labor and social affairs, and his delegation. Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended. The conversation centered on conditions in the region and bilateral ties.

Iranian Minister Departs

JN1305181891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 May (SANA)—Hoseyn Kamali, Iranian labor and social affairs minister, left Damascus this evening following a five-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Haydar Buzu, social affairs and labor minister; senior ministry officials; Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus; Shaykh Shari'ati, cultural adviser; and embassy personnel.

Kamali made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed satisfaction with the talks he held in Damascus and the visits he made.

He added: I have felt a sincere desire by Syrian officials about promoting cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran in implementation of the directives of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Concluding his statement, Kamali thanked the government and people of Syria for the generous hospitality accorded him during his visit. He wished Syria further success and progress.

Reportage on Interior Minister's Visit to Cyprus

WA1505140191

For Cypriot reportage on the visit by Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah to Cyprus, including reports on his talks with President Yeoryios Vasiliou and Interior Minister Khristodhoulos Veniamin, please see the Cyprus section of the 15 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Concludes Foreign Visits

*LD1405191491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 14 May 91*

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, who paid working visits to the Soviet Union and New York, returned to Kabul this morning.

During his visits and meetings with UN Secretary General His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, and USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and in his comments at press briefings, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan dwelt on carrying out commitments by the Republic of Afghanistan regarding earnest observation of the provisions of the Geneva Accords, and presented documents and undeniable evidence showing the expansion of interference and direct aggression by Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan. He asked his excellency the UN secretary general to use all his efforts to prevent interference and aggression by Pakistan and to secure a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

During their recent meeting, the ministers of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union regarded Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of our country as contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Accords, expressed their resolve for a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

On his way back to the country, the minister of foreign affairs paid a short visit to the FRG, where he met political figures and a number of the members of the Bundestag, including Willy Brandt, honorary chairman of the Social Democratic Party and former chancellor. During the meetings, these personalities expressed their support for ending the war and restoring peace in the country, and assured 'Abdul Wakil about their efforts and use of all opportunities to achieve a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue. They also gave assurances on the FRG's humanitarian and economic assistance for the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Engineer Muhammad Ghofran, minister of agriculture and land reform, deputy ministers and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Aleksandr Orlov, minister counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul, welcomed the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan at the Kabul airport.

Kazakh Komsomol Group Meets Education Minister

*LD0905204291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Professor Dr. Muhammad Anwar Shamas, minister of higher and vocational education, met in his office this morning with a Komsomol delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the Soviet Union. The delegation arrived in

Kabul led by Tasmaganbetov, first secretary of Komsomol Central Committee of that republic.

During this meeting, the minister of higher and vocational education discussed higher education in the country and emphasized the need for cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning higher education for young people and the youth of Afghanistan in the Soviet Kazakhstan.

Meets With Presidential Guard

*LD1005202291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 May 91*

[Excerpt] The Komsomol delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the Soviet Union, which recently arrived in Kabul led by Tasmaganbetov, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Komsomol Central Committee, met today with the young officers and soldiers of the units and companies of the Presidential Guard.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that in the course of the meeting, the delegation talked with young soldiers and personnel and familiarized themselves with their daily work. [passage omitted]

Received by Najibullah

*LD1205185291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 May 91*

[Text] The Press Office of the Presidency has reported to BAKHTAR that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning received at the Presidency the delegation of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], headed by Tasmaganbetov, member of the Kazakh parliament and first secretary of the central committee of the Kazakh SSR Komsomol, which is visiting Afghanistan. The meeting was also attended by Muhammad Ibrahim, the president of the Afghan Youth Union, and B.N. Pastukhov, the Soviet ambassador and representative extraordinary in Kabul.

Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the role of youth in peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, which has suffered much damage as a result of the imposed war. Esteemed Najibullah also spoke about maintaining friendly relations between the Afghan Youth Union and the Kazakh SSR Komsomol and between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Kazakh SSR. In response, the first secretary of the central committee of the Kazakh SSR Komsomol noted the existence of friendly relations between the Kazakh Komsomol and the Afghan Youth Union and, on behalf of his organization, expressed his readiness for the betterment of present relations.

Mujahidin Capture Town Near Soviet Border

*BK1405141891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 14 (AFP)—Mujahidin forces have captured an important town in northeast

Afghanistan, less than 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Soviet border, a spokesman for the rebels said Tuesday.

Spokesman Najibullah Lafra'i, describing it as a "major" victory, said the mujahidin took Khajaghar, an administrative centre for the province of Takhar, after an operation launched Saturday.

Mr. Lafra'i said it was led by one of the most important resistance commanders, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud—sometimes called the "Lion of Panjsher."

Fighting was continuing, as the rebels attempted to capture the headquarters of the Army's 55th Division, just outside Khajaghar, the spokesman said.

Mujahidin Capture 3 'Important Places' in North

BK1405162891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have gained control of three important places in the northern province of Sar-e Pol. The province was created recently by the inclusion of the gas and mineral-rich regions of Jowzjan Province bordering the Soviet Union. The mujahidin reportedly attacked a military supply convoy in the province in which more than 40 Kabul forces were either killed or wounded. The mujahidin in their operations in the Zende Jan-(Wuloswali) region in the Herat Province either killed or injured more than 250 Kabul forces.

Bangladesh

First Military Units Return From Saudi Arabia

BK1405132691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External
Service in English 1230 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The first batch of more than 400 officers and troops of Bangladeshi military contingent returned home from Saudi Arabia Tuesday [14 May]. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia welcomed them at the Zia International Airport. Army Chief Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan was present there. The second batch of the contingent was due to arrive in the evening.

Envoy to UN Appeals for Generous Cyclone Aid

BK1405131091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External
Service in English 1230 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the international financial institutions and nongovernmental organizations to assist Bangladesh in its relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts to overcome the damage done by the recent devastating cyclone and tidal surge.

Addressing the Assembly, Bangladesh permanent representative, Mohiuddin Ahmed, said the colossal human tragedy included 139,000 dead and many more (?wounded) with around 10 million people being affected. He said much of the country's agricultural crops have been

totally destroyed. Mr. Mohiuddin said the estimated cost of relief and rehabilitation is \$1.5 billion. He appealed for generous international assistance.

India

Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund Opened

BK1405151591 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The center has opened a special fund called the Prime Minister's Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund. This is to receive contributions from individuals and organizations for relief and reconstruction work in cyclone-hit areas in Bangladesh.

An official release issued in New Delhi says the contributions to the fund will be entitled to tax exemption. Contributions can be given at any branch of the State Bank of India.

Reportage on Border Talks With PRC

WA1405175791

For reportage on Sino-Indian border talks held in Beijing, including reports on Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey's meeting with PRC Premier Li Peng and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, see the Near East and South Asia section of the 14 May China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Curfew Continues in Kashmir Town for Third Day

BK1405094691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew continues to be in force in Punch for the third day today. No relaxation has been allowed today, but admission cards for the students undertaking the 10th class examination will be treated curfew passes for going to and coming from examination centers.

The deputy commissioner, Punch, told our correspondent that the situation in the town is under control and no untoward incident has been reported.

'Militants' Kill Another Candidate in Punjab

BK1505075691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0730 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] In Punjab militants shot dead an independent candidate, Mr. Baljinder Singh, for the Adampur assembly constituency last night. Mr. Singh is the second candidate in Jullundur District to be killed by militants within a gap of three days.

Assam Government Enforces National Security Act*BK1505090091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 15 May 91*

[Text] The Assam government has invoked the National Security Act in the state for a period of three months. According to an official announcement in Guwahati, this has been done as a precautionary measure in view of the ensuing elections in the state next month. The act empowers the district deputy commissioners to detain any person without trial for one year. The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Preventive Act, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, and the Disturbed Areas Act are already in force throughout the state.

Iran**Khamene'i Current Health Status Reported****Interviewed in Hospital***LD1405193791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 91*

[Text] The guardian of the cause of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, gave an exclusive interview to our reporter this afternoon, in which he expressed satisfaction over his general health. I draw your attention to our correspondent's report from the hospital.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Following the successful operation which was performed on His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, his eminence today granted us permission to be in his presence. I ask him to explain his general health, especially after the operation, to you, dear viewers.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, I feel very well, relatively speaking. I sincerely thank all our people all over the country who gave prayers and favored me with their prayers which came from their pure hearts. I feel very well; that is, relative to my situation and position, I feel very well. Apparently, there is good progress in my health as the gentlemen, the physicians, have said.

[Correspondent] Thank you. God willing, may you leave the hospital as soon as possible. [end recording]

Doctors Comment on Condition*LD1405110991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Three days after the successful operation on the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, the medical team treating him issued a statement describing his progress as satisfactory. The text of the statement by the medical team treating the leader of the Islamic revolution is as follows:

In His exalted name. With thanks to God, following the previous statement, we hereby inform the Muslim nation and the devotees of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God extend His shadow, that thanks to the special blessings and attention of his holiness the remnant of God [Imam Mahdi] and your sincere prayers, on the third day after the operation, His Eminence's progress is satisfactory.

Normal feeding started yesterday and the intravenous medications have been stopped. He spent a long time out of bed yesterday. We pray to God Almighty for His eminence's speedy recovery and good health.

[Signed] The medical team treating the esteemed leader

[Dated] 14 May 1991

Iraqi Refugees Return Home as Unrest Continues*LD1405130991 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azerbaijan Prov., May 14, IRNA—Some 50,000 Iraqi refugees have so far returned home through Sar Dasht border area near here, a local authority from Sar Dasht Governorate told IRNA today. He said that the Iraqi Kurdish refugees have been returning home in batches of about 1,500 every day since last month.

Some 250,000 Iraqi refugees have entered Iran through Sar Dasht since the mass exodus of the Iraqis into Iran after the Persian Gulf war. Of this number 150,000 are being lodged in the border city and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, a group of French and Canadian journalists and cameramen visited several Iraqi refugee camps in the port city of Khorramshahr and Shushtar in Khuzestan Province.

In another development, 'Voice of Revolutionary Iraq' [Voice of Rebellious Iraq] announced Monday that unrest in the city of Safwan in southern al-Basrah Province still continued. A number of those who have lost their relatives in the abortive uprising against the Iraqi regime have formed an armed force against the government forces, the radio added.

India Urged To Resolve Kashmir Issue*LD1305195391 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Iran on Monday urged the New Delhi government to deal with the Kashmir issue more wisely and spare no efforts to solve the problem immediately.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told IRNA that the "use of violence and indifference to the wishes of Muslim masses" in Indian controlled Kashmir accounts for the recent events which have resulted in the "massacre and homelessness" of Kashmiri Muslims.

The spokesman reiterated that the Kashmir issue can be solved only through justice.

Proposed Pact With Israel Called 'Disgraceful'

LD1305091891 Tehran IRNA in English
0811 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 13 IRNA—"JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI" Monday commented on the current developments in the Middle East and said an agreement more disgraceful than Camp David was in the making for Arab states to recognize Israel and thus endorse abjection of the Arabs and Palestinians.

Referring to the ongoing chain visits by high-ranking U.S. and Soviet officials to Tel Aviv, Cairo and other Middle Eastern capitals, the Persian daily said Egypt by signing the Camp David Accord inflicted the hardest blow on the Arabs and Muslims and now by seducing other Arab regimes is trying to align them with Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Cairo has once again turned to a focus of political shuttles, but not aimed at preserving the prestige and dignity of Arabs and Muslims but further humiliating them and persuading the Arab compromisers to sign a "collective treacherous pact" against the ideals of Palestinians, it said.

Palestine is witnessing the most bitter moments of its history, said the editorial and concluded that the revolutionary Muslims, the Palestinian and Egyptian youths in particular, must foil the plot and restore the dignity and splendor of the Islamic world through sacrifice and devotion.

Commentary Urges Caution on Recognizing Israel

LD1305134291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0949 GMT
13 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Greetings, dear listeners. After the end of the Persian Gulf crisis, the issue of security arrangements and holding a peace conference continue to be given priority in international efforts. The U.S. secretary of state and Soviet foreign minister have held talks in Cairo on this topic after visiting several countries in the region. According to reports, the talks have been largely successful and the two have expressed satisfaction about the understanding achieved in the talks.

The issue of establishing peace and stability in the Middle East is of special importance to the developed countries of the world because of the presence of the most important source of energy for the foreseeable future, and there is considerable disagreement over how to establish peace and security and over the question of which country or international organization should carry out this important task. There is no doubt that the main consumers of Middle Eastern oil are the United States,

Western European countries, and Japan, but the problem is that the United States is not at all prepared to allow any of the others to play a major role, and if it gives concessions to Europe in this regard, these are more in the nature of a formal gesture than a matter of substance.

It is interesting to note that instead of involving Europe or the international community in the resolution of Middle East problems, the United States has closely cooperated with the Soviet Union. It is not without benefit to ask why this is so.

As far as the United States is concerned, what major role can the Soviet Union play in the Middle East? Some analysts believe that what the Soviet Union can do in line with U.S. wishes is to refrain from selling arms. In return for a such policy, it can receive economic and commercial concessions from the United States. It is, in fact, far easier for the United States to reach an understanding with the Soviet Union, which wants economic concessions, than with a Europe, which wants to play a strong political role in Middle Eastern and international affairs. This is because stability and security in the region and the establishment of strong ties with oil-producing Middle Eastern countries is closely linked to Europe's economic stability in the future; there is no doubt about the control which the United States can thereby exercise over Europe.

David Levi's emphasis on the point that those who would wish to exclude the Soviet Union from the Middle East would be the enemies of the Soviet Union was a tacit reference to the exclusion of Europe. Amid all this, the region's Arab countries, which themselves form one side of the negotiations, do not seem very pleased about the increased influence of the United States since the crisis subsided, because the unchallenged domination of the United States over the region would undoubtedly bring in its wake extensive interference in those countries' internal affairs in the future. And the heads of those regimes are fully aware of that.

Analysts therefore believe that Arab countries must exercise the utmost caution in adopting any policies with regard to the resolution of Middle Eastern problems or in connection with official recognition of Israel, because the only winning card these countries now hold is precisely that lack of recognition of Israel, and if they do give that regime official recognition, there will be no doubt that the recognition will be irretrievable, and then the tone of voice of the officials of the regime ruling over occupied Palestine toward its neighbors will be completely different. It should also be said that the reaction and public opinion of the region's Muslim people does not seem to have been taken into account in the equation.

West Said To Ignore Plight of Iraqi Shiites

NC1305164691 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 5 May 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Shiites of the South Are Being Deliberately Ignored"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Iraqi people are suffering today as a result of the chaos that emerged in the wake of Saddam's humiliating defeat. The lord of al-Qadisiyah has opened a new chapter of penury, tribulation, and disgrace for the Iraqi people! [passage omitted]

The entire population of Iraq rose to express its wrath against Saddam and his Ba'thist coterie, with waves of popular resistance erupting throughout the country. On the verge of complete collapse, Saddam once again "prostrated" himself before the West, and his degrading display of servility brought about nothing but death and devastation.

Suddenly all the West's anti-Saddam slogans were transformed into ones of tacit, and even overt, support for him and ones against the uprising of the oppressed people. The United States gave "the butcher of Baghdad" a green light to launch a brutal massacre. France expressed its obvious satisfaction that Saddam could unleash a "bloodbath" and massacre dissidents in the south. Efforts were stepped up to relegate the people of the south to oblivion and to ignore all the butcher of Baghdad's crimes against the Shiites.

The United States and its allies became Saddam's allies and deliberately embarked on an extensive campaign of deceit about events in northern Iraq to muffle the cries of the oppressed Shiites in the south. [passage omitted]

The arrogance of the world, and particularly of the United States, has revealed its true face through events in Iraq. The United States is pursuing well-defined objectives even in its efforts to establish safe havens in the north, and it believes that the chaos prevailing in Iraq, especially Saddam's weakness, degradation, and isolation, will enable it to achieve its goals.

The "safe havens" are an overt act of deceit to conceal U.S. designs in the north and to cast the bitter and unfortunate events in the south into oblivion. [passage omitted]

The region is witnessing the political repercussions of the inhuman policies of the United States toward Muslims. The West, and particularly the United States, bears direct responsibility for all the atrocities the "butcher of Baghdad" has committed and will commit.

The West still hopes that, if Saddam remains in power, it will be able to achieve its objectives in the region. The butcher of Baghdad is busy killing people as the West aids and abets him by turning a blind eye to the heroic uprising in the south.

As everyone knows, the "safe havens" in the north and the odious charade the West has launched there will not solve the Iraqi people's problems, and in the end they will only aggravate a "difficulty" into a major "problem."

The Iraqi people see no difference between the actions of Saddam and the United States; they have suffered at the hands of both in one way or another and consider the

two as partners in crime. This has been confirmed despite the veneer of humanitarianism the West is trying to project.

President's Remarks in Turkey, Syria Noted

NC1005151591 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 4 May 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Refugees and the Security Factor"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Syria and Turkey caught the attention of regional and international observers alike. Being his first official trip since becoming president in 1989, it is apparent that talks with Messrs. al-Asad and Ozal were focused on the most critical of questions. In both countries Mr. Rafsanjani had to deal with three challenging issues: Iraqi refugees, regional security and bilateral cooperation to improve the well-being of Iranians, Syrians and Turks. From what President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told reporters, it seems the trip was worth its while. The right people had to know the depths of the crisis confronting this region, and the truth established.

The disaster visiting the Muslim peoples of Iraq two months after the U.S.-Iraq war is unprecedented in contemporary history. Almost 2m [million] Iraqis have been displaced following the twin uprisings in the north and south of that Arab country. Iraqi refugees are saturating the border with Iran and Turkey, hundreds are dying everyday and thousands taking ill due to disease, injury, shortages of food, medicine, drinking water and sanitation. To add insult to injury, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has unleashed his Ba'th army on innocent Shi'ites in the south. Refugee tales of torture and brutality against small children shames humanity.

It would be a pity if the highest-level talks in Damascus and Ankara did not tackle the question of and come to the right decision about Saddam's political survival. America's decision to punish Baghdad for its Kuwaiti venture brought Turkey and Syria closer to the U.S. After having joined the anti-Iraq coalition, the two countries should work for what is best for the Iraqi masses and the region. Every effort must be made to help the Iraqis run their own country with dignity.

For their own ulterior motives, the U.S.-led Western alliance does not favor an Iraq short of Saddam Husayn. And as long as the Ba'th Party leader is in power, more tales of horror will be recorded in this era of Middle East history, already brimming with Saddam's crimes against humanity.

Presidents al-Asad, Ozal and Hashemi-Rafsanjani allocated a significant part of their negotiations to regional security. While our president was doing the rounds in Damascus, news reports said: Syria endorses an Iranian role in (Persian) Gulf security. The ruling party's newspaper, AL-BA'TH, wrote, "Syria has always said and

stressed that Iran should have a role in the higher affairs of the region due to the links between Iran and Arabs in various matters'.

The more we think about the proposed security set up and all the rhetoric attached to it from various angles, the more amused we are. The controversy surrounding the entire Persian Gulf security plan now being touted is evidence of its unworkability and of the difficulty in setting up a credible system with the main actors missing. This, however, should not be confused with the feeling that Tehran is difficult to deal with. Enemies of the Islamic Revolution and republic would like to see Iran isolated forever or until it compromises on its principles. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani underscored for the upteenth time that this will not happen.

Differences do exist between Tehran and almost all the weak Persian Gulf Arab states that financed Saddam's war against Iran. The Islamic leadership has noted on more occasions than one, that normal relations could be worked out if the correct attitude prevails in the shaykhdoms.

The point which seems to have been neglected in the past several weeks is the interrelation between a new security order and the refugee crisis which again goes back to Saddam's despotic rule. A joint statement issued in Ankara and Tehran on Thursday said the influx of Iraqi refugees is a "threat endangering the stability and security of the region". It is very natural that with 2m displaced people in the area there can be no security. Handling 2m poor and furious Kurds and Shi'ites is a very big challenge to Iran and Turkey, not to mention that both countries and Syria have significant Kurdish populations.

For very well known reasons the much-publicized security agenda will have to be put aside unless the refugee question is finally resolved and, if necessary, with international guarantees. The recent influx has included thousands of families seeking refuge in Iran for the second or third time. All this has to stop for good. The related parties to the present crisis and solicitors of a new security arrangement have to address the plight of Iraqi refugees in an urgent and serious manner if they want a return to peace, security and prosperity for the masses and respective governments.

President's Visits to Syria, Turkey Viewed

NC1305192191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 2 May 91 p 15

["Weekly Political Analysis" column: "Agreement Among Neighbors on Iraq's Problems"]

[Text] Under current conditions, it is only natural for Iraq's neighbors to be extremely concerned. It is also only natural that they attempt to coordinate their stands in the belief that they will be in a better position to deal with any eventuality if they adopt a common approach toward common problems.

This gives added importance to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visits to Syria and Turkey. Iraq's problems and their repercussions were naturally at the top of the agenda, but it is clear that broader issues, including cooperation in various fields, were also discussed.

Our president's successful tour concluded today, and so we are now in a better position to assess its results. Iran and Syria have long held identical views on many issues, especially those connected with occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq.

The strategic ties between the two countries has paved the way for their adoption of firm and independent policies on these issues. The Islamic Republic of Iran supports Syria as the front line in the struggle against Israel and believes that any solution to the Palestinian issue must include the restoration of all the Palestinian people's usurped rights, as well as the liberation and independence of the Islamic land of Palestine. Any solution that does not include such guarantees is doomed to failure.

Syria has also maintained a firm and steadfast stance with regard to Iraq. Ever since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war, Syria has pursued the correct policy, proving that this country's leadership holds the right views on regional and Islamic issues. Under current circumstances, it is only natural that Iran and Syria would hold identical views. The existence of such unanimity can play a useful role in enabling the Iraqi nation to embark on the path to salvation.

In addition to discussing Iraq and the repercussions of recent events on the region during his visit to Turkey, our president and Turkish officials also reached a firm understanding on cooperation in the technical, economic and industrial fields which will benefit the two countries. Such cooperation will contribute to the better utilization of the resources and potential of Muslim and neighboring countries to promote economic growth and prosperity and to reinforce solidarity among Muslim nations.

Velayati Briefs Majles on 'Diplomatic Efforts'

LD1205182791 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT
12 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—The Foreign Relations Committee of the Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly) on Sunday reviewed the outcome of the visits to Tehran of German and French Foreign Ministers Hans Dietrich Genscher and Roland Dumas, and their talks with Iranian officials.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, briefed the committee on Tehran's diplomatic efforts during the Persian Gulf crisis, and said Iran's stance on regional security was based on cooperation with other countries of the region.

Velayati Views Rights of Expatriates*LD1305171591 Tehran IRNA in English
1452 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday Iran defends the rights of all Iranian expatriates abroad, and all those Iranians residing permanently or temporarily in foreign countries should consider the Islamic Republic missions as their shelters.

"To treat Iranian nationals abroad properly requires that Iranian consulates increase their activities including the number of staff," Velayati told graduates of the Foreign Ministry's International Relations College here.

Underlining the need for the graduates to acquire expertise and commitment, he said "The Foreign Ministry is a sort of place where one cannot work without expertise."

Velayati Departs for Australia, New Zealand*LD1405082891 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here on a week-long official visit to Australia and New Zealand this morning. On his way to Canberra, Velayati also will have a stopover in Malaysia.

Before departure, the minister told IRNA at the airport that Iran's relations with New Zealand and Australia are expanding. He added that Australia has an active role regarding chemical disarmament and that Canberra has invited Iran to take part in a preparatory conference to be held before Geneva disarmament conference.

Velayati is returning visits by his Australian and New Zealand counterparts to Tehran recently.

Oil Minister, Delegation Leave for Pakistan*LD1405072891 Tehran IRNA in English 0449 GMT
14 May 91*

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i heading a high-ranking delegation left here for Islamabad Tuesday morning to pay a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Besides his counterpart, the Iranian minister is to hold talks with several top-ranking Pakistani officials to finalize an agreement on construction of a joint refinery in Pakistan. He will also discuss oil and gas sale to Islamabad.

UN Information Under Secretary Visits**Discusses Media Cooperation***LD1305163891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
13 May 91*

[Text] The UN under secretary general has asked for the assistance of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic

Republic of Iran to better reflect the activities of the United Nations and exchange information on a global scale.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mrs Sevigny, UN under secretary general for general information affairs, held a meeting this afternoon with Mr Hashemi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran voice and vision organization. She briefed him on the activities and performance of the UN general information section concerning publications as well as radio and TV programs. She asked for the assistance of the Voice and Vision organization to advance UN aims, especially in its news services.

During the meeting, Mr Hashemi referred to the special position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in light of the keenness of the world's nations to hear the message of the Islamic revolution of Iran. He said: The world's propaganda monopolies do not comment on realities in the world and in our region—and if they do, it is in a negative and distorted way. They act as if human rights are solely the prerogative of a particular minority, and that the rest of the people of the world have no rights.

He added: The logic of the media which dominate the world is that they deafen the world's ears about a few Western hostages, but remain silent about the crimes of the Zionists against the oppressed Palestinian nation.

He said: We have tried to improve the Voice and Vision so that we can bring our message to the world as extensively as possible. He added: We see many common grounds for cooperation between the Voice and Vision and the UN general information section, and we are prepared to cooperate. With 67 information bureaus worldwide, you can play a significant role in breaking the monopoly in news broadcasting and propaganda in world media. The Voice and Vision is ready to help you in that respect.

During the meeting, the subject of setting up a Voice and Vision bureau at the United Nations was discussed. The under secretary general promised to give the necessary assistance in setting up the bureau.

According to this report, the UN under secretary general and her entourage visited the various sections of the Voice and Vision.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister*NC1405091991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 14 May 91*

[Text] Mrs. Sevigny, UN under secretary general for general information affairs, held her second round of talks with Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs. The UN official described her talks with Iranian officials as effective and praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing security in the region and for dealing with the Iraqi refugees.

Commenting on the need for the rapid and correct exchange of information, she expressed the hope that practical and effective steps will be taken to this effect.

During this round of talks, Mr. Mottaki pointed to the need for persistent UN efforts to overcome the marked inequalities in the current international news media system.

Majles Approves Bill on Contested Seats

LD1405125891 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] During today's open session of the Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi, the draft bill on the number of candidates in various elections was approved with singular urgency. According to a report by our correspondent, the only article of this draft bill says: From the date of ratification of this law all the elections at various regional and national levels, except for state council elections, can go proceed, condition that the number of the candidates reaches at least twice the number of vacancies available.

Pilgrimage Official on Cooperation With Saudis

LD1405150791 *Tehran Voice of The Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 0930 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reyshahri, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to the holy house of God [Mecca], in a press conference this morning described the lofty status of the hajj in Islam, the duties of Iranian pilgrims, and the latest agreements reached with the Saudi Government.

According to our correspondent's report, he referred to the instructions of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and the remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, about the important role of hajj in Islam. He said the hajj is not merely a simple and meaningless form of worship. In addition to fortifying the spiritual character of man, it must satisfy his social, cultural, and even economic needs and problems. On that basis the Islamic Republic of Iran strives to perform the hajj ritual with all its peculiar pomp and ceremony, as far as possible.

He thanked the Islamic Republic officials, particularly those in the Foreign Ministry, for their sincere and serious efforts to see to it that the politico-ideological hajj ceremonies are better preformed. Describing the agreements reached with the Saudi hajj officials, he said that thanks to the efforts of the Iranian authorities, what should have taken a year was accomplished favorably within a month or two. However, despite all their cooperation, there are still certain problems with the Saudi authorities which we are trying to resolve through more efforts.

Editorial Views Continuing Repercussions of War

NC1405095691 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian* 1 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Some Observations, in Particular With Regard to the Effects and Propaganda of the Persian Gulf War"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The oil war has ended but its effects and repercussions continue to emerge and have encompassed the region with greater complexity and heightened sensitivity.

From the onset of the crisis when the Iraqi Army bore down on Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted a special approach to the issue, a revolutionary stance, by proclaiming its neutrality. It condemned both the Iraqi attack on Kuwait and the presence of the foreign forces in the region.

Aside from the political aspects, the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance was also unique regarding the war's human aspects. Islamic Iran provided shelter to all those who left their hearths and homes and were able to reach its borders and did not hamper its people's assistance to their Iraqi neighbors. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi people staged an uprising and even risked their lives to change the degrading state of affairs in their country. The Baghdad regime, however, with its disgraceful subservience before the enemy, strove to stifle the cries of the Iraqi people by creating a louder uproar. At this stage too, the only country that acted sincerely and championed the cause of the truth, without changing its stance, was the Islamic Republic of Iran. The others initially spoke of the need to remove Saddam, or to impeach him and his associates in a "Nuremberg-style" trial. As soon as they realized that the popular uprising in Iraq did not fall within the pale of their interests, not only did they eat their words, but in a most despicable manner they supported the massacre of the people and felt a source of satisfaction and joy that Saddam remained in power. They thus exposed their antihuman face once more. [passage omitted]

Today we are facing even more complex circumstances. It is a source of immense pride to the Islamic Republic of Iran that in its stance and performance regarding the oil war and its continuing repercussions to date that it has consistently adhered to the principles of the revolution, Islam, and humanitarianism. In the days of the war, some called Saddam "Khalid Bin-Walid" and called for the Islamic Republic of Iran to support him and were on his side. They were wrong.

Our officials had diagnosed the situation correctly, made decisions, and acted on them. Today as well, when the effects and repercussions of the oil war with all its inherent complications continue to cast a shadow on regional issues, it is essential that planned measures and a responsible approach to events continue in a manner

that the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisions and actions be just as revolutionary, Islamic, and humanitarian. [passage omitted]

The United States has not yet learned that it should respect nations. It has not learned what human behavior is. In fact, it has a lot to learn about decorous human behavior. A country that claims to be a superpower and has reaped so many benefits from the "oil war" sends second-hand goods to aid the victims of its crimes to degrade the Iraqi people more.

Perhaps if these goods were returned to the United States it would compensate for the U.S. contemptible conduct and make Washington understand that its behavior is far from humanitarianism. How elegant was our president's statement that the people of one Iranian village have given more assistance to the refugees than an entire foreign country. [passage omitted]

Naturally, it would be worthwhile if the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government were to bring up this issue in all its sensitivity to those countries which are willing to assist and to explain that accepting foreign troops is unacceptable to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If we were to be more open and lenient, this point could very well create serious concomitant problems regarding security and could very well become the fountainhead of a hydra-like problem of current and future national and regional security, woe betide!

* Khamene'i Seeks Right To Dissolve Majles

91AS0882A London KEYHAN in Persian
25 Apr 91 p 12

[Text] Khamene'i is thinking of getting authority to dissolve the Majles. The authority to dissolve the Majles, which is a part of the constitutions of various countries, does not exist in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The conditional right to dissolve the Majles was given to the shah. In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ruhollah Khomeyni had so much authority outside the law that there was no thought whatsoever of its legal authorization. He did whatever he wanted to do.

The matter of dissolving the Majles, whose necessity could arise under any regime, came up with the death of Ruhollah Khomeyni. The Constitutional Review Council, which was appointed in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] to review the Constitution, considered the issue of dissolving the Majles and giving to the leader of the Islamic Republic the right to dissolve the Majles, but the Majles deputies, who feared completely losing their power in the regime, were in disarray, because while Ruhollah Khomeyni stipulated point by point the instances for changing the Constitution, nothing had been said about giving the leader the right to dissolve the Majles.

After Ruhollah Khomeyni died and Khamene'i became leader, Khamene'i's position was too weak to permit him to engage in a more critical struggle with the Majles.

Accordingly, before things became more difficult he voluntarily passed over the question of dissolving the Majles.

Now, just as Khamene'i feels stronger than he did two years ago and has obtained more self-confidence, the permanent crisis between the Majles and the government on the one hand and the Majles and the Council of Guardians on the other could get to the point that there is no choice but to dissolve the Majles and hold new elections.

Although even now the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Yazdi group has so arranged things that the fourth term of the Majles will be so designed to make the next Majles more submissive than the current one, they also want to give the leader the right to dissolve the Majles, to block every expression of recalcitrance and to suppress the Majles' sense of independence.

Dissolving the Majles is more a way of making the Majles more of a rubber stamp for the government's decisions than it has been before, than it is a way to resolve potential crises in the regime.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Reportage on Parliamentary Election Results

Nepali Congress Maintains Lead

BK1505102891 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas
Service in English 1000 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] In the Nepal general elections, with the announcement of the results of three-fourths of seats, the Nepali Congress has maintained its lead by winning in 69 constituencies. Out of 143 results declared so far, the Nepali Communist Party, United Marxist-Leninist, have bagged 55. To get an absolute majority in the 205-member house, the Nepali Congress needs 34 more seats. The results for 62 constituencies are yet to come in. The president of the Nepal Sadbhavna Party, Mr. Gajendra Narain Singh, has been declared elected from Saftari constituency.

Meanwhile, hectic political activities are on in Kathmandu on the formation of the new government. Leaders of different political parties are meeting to consider possible alliances in case no party gets a clear majority. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the acting president of the Nepali Congress, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai; and the party general secretary, Mr. G.P. Koirala, held discussions today with other party leaders. Various communist leaders are also meeting to formulate their strategy.

Further on Party Standings

BK1505052091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0519 GMT
15 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 15 (AFP)—The Nepali Congress continued to lead election returns Wednesday, capturing 54 of the 205 seats up for grabs in the kingdom's first free parliamentary vote since 1959.

Its main rival, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist Leninist) [UML] took 43 seats, an official announcement said as counting of the ballots cast Sunday continued.

The pro-India Nepal Goodwill Party and pro-Panchayat National Democratic Party (Chand Faction) got three seats each, the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party two, the pro-leftist United People's Front five, and the pro-Soviet Nepal Communist Party (Democratic) one.

One seat went to an independent candidate.

Trends showed the Nepali Congress dominant in western Nepal and in the low-lying tropical areas southwest of Kathmandu, including Morang District, 300 kilometers (180 miles) from the capital, officials said.

The Nepal Communist Party (UML) was meanwhile showing strength in eastern Nepal, including the Jhapa area bordering on the communist-governed Indian state of West Bengal.

Results from at least 51 constituencies were expected to be delayed for about a week because of repollings which were ordered after brawls by rival political groups.

In Janakpur District, 11 people have been on a hunger strike since Sunday, demanding fresh balloting in five constituencies where they say polling booths had been captured and invalid votes cast by proxy, a source close to the Nepal Goodwill Party said.

He also said there was unrest Tuesday when repolling took place at Ikarakiya in Mahottari District, 160 kilometres (100 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, in which police opened fire to disperse an unruly crowd.

The source claimed at least two persons were killed and four others wounded, but an official source confirmed one death and two injuries.

Kathmandu Celebrates Communist Victory

BK1405141591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT
14 May 91

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 14 (AFP)—King Birendra's subjects danced in the streets here Tuesday, celebrating a near election sweep by communist candidates in the Nepalese capital.

The Nepalese Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist (NCP-UML) was still trailing the Congress

Party in the rest of the country, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of young communist supporters. Young children waved red flags emblazoned with a hammer and sickle or a sun, the NCP-UML's electoral symbols. "It's a victory for who? It's a victory for the sun," chanted young people filing through the back streets, past temples covered with election slogans.

The communists won four of Kathmandu's five seats and in the process inflicted a humiliating defeat on Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai in his own riding. He resigned as premier Tuesday. The seat was won by Madan Bhanari, the NPC-UML secretary-general.

"We finished by beating the tree," the Congress' symbol, a group chanted in front of an old imperial palace on Durbar Square, the tourist centre of this city built around hundreds of Hindu and Buddhist temples.

Thousands of people, their cheeks covered in bright red powder, joined in a celebration parade behind the two heroes of the day—Mr. Bhanari and Sahana Pradhan, a communist and minister of industry and trade in Mr. Bhattarai's government. The celebrants bombarded Mr. Bhanari and Ms. Pradhan with red powder and flowers.

Like many of his fellows, the operator of a music shop on a main street closed up for the day. "Today is a day to have fun," he explained. He said he had voted for communist candidate Padma Ratna Tuladhar not because he is a communist, but because they are both members of the Tuladhar ethnic group. "We do not know the true significance of communism," he admitted, explaining that the Tuladhars are mostly businessmen and merchants.

Others, however, had a much better idea what they voted for—or against. "The foundations of democracy are not yet there," said Uttam Mali, 38, a lecturer at an electronics institute in the capital. "After last year's revolution the Congress shook the hand of the Panchayat people who oppressed us for 30 years," added Mr. Mali, referring to the partyless system brought down by the Congress Party and the communists after often bloody riots.

Mr. Mali was one of about 15,000 to spend the night in front of the city hall, awaiting election results from the city, applauding and yelling out joyfully every time a result favourable to the left was announced.

The fact that a number of communist governments in Eastern Europe collapsed last year did not seem to bother the crowd. "Forget Europe. Europe is not the world" and we will find our own way, said one of the group. "We want a new culture," shouted Binaya Shrestha, 19, a science student. "The Congress has done nothing in the year it has been in power," added Dhruva Gautam, a 24-year-old arts student.

In front of the fence surrounding the city hall, a group had drawn a large red sun in chalk, and planted candles at the end of each of its rays. Everywhere in the tightly packed crowd people were writing down election figures

and endlessly discussing them. Then, when the results were announced, everyone danced in jubilation.

Pakistan

President Discusses Kashmir With UK Visitor

BK1405160191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has urged the international community to exert pressure on India to check large-scale violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir and to fulfill the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He was talking to Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labor Party of the United Kingdom, who called on the president in Islamabad today. The president said that it is a historical and moral responsibility, especially for Britain, to settle the issues which remained unresolved during the partition of the subcontinent. The unresolved issue of Kashmir is one of them. Gross injustice was done in relation to Kashmir and pledges on it were not honored. Therefore, the international community should take a serious note of the Kashmir issue, the president added.

Dispelling apprehension over the danger of a war between Pakistan and India, the president said neither country is in a position to win a war and both of them are aware that this will cause large-scale destruction and devastation.

Roy Hattersley said that he shares the concern of the president of Pakistan on the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir, adding that the Labor Party wants the Kashmir issue resolved peacefully in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives 14 May

BK1405164891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The Iranian oil minister, Mr. Gholamreza Aqazadeh, has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir and said the problem of Kashmiri Muslims is of concern to the Muslim countries. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival at the Islamabad airport this afternoon as the head of a 17-member delegation on a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

House Resumes Discussion on Islamic Law Bill

BK1405165291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The National Assembly has been continuing general discussion on the enforcement of the Shariat Bill 1991 as reported by the select committee. Earlier, general discussion was concluded in the morning session today. It was reopened this evening with the consent of the house, following an agreement between the PDA [Progressive Democratic Alliance] and the IJI [Islamic

Jamhoori Ittehad]. The minister of state for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Chaudhry Amir Hussain, speaking after the house reassembled after lengthy consultations, informed the house that the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, had asked him to request the speaker to seek permission of the house to give opposition an opportunity to express their views on the bill which was of great significance to the nation. The prime minister fully realized the important place of the opposition in a democratic system and believed in taking it along with him. The minister of state said since the bill was of great importance, the government especially wanted to achieve a grand consensus. The speaker sought the consent of the house which agreed to the suggestion.

In her speech, the leader of the opposition, Benazir Bhutto Saheba, questioned what she called the hurry in which the government sought to get the bill (?cleared), especially as it would have far-reaching repercussions on the nation as well as the rest of the ummah. She described the bill as unconstitutional, un-Islamic, sectarian, and obscurantist. She also expressed the apprehension that it would weaken the legislature at the cost of the executive.

Replying to the points raised by members during the morning session, the minister of state for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs dispelled apprehensions in certain sections of population, including women and minorities. He assured that their rights as envisaged in Islam were fully protected. Thirteen members took part in the morning session.

Bhutto Calls Bill 'Unconstitutional'

BK1505002891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1725 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 14 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition leader and former premier, Benazir Bhutto, Tuesday rejected a government bill to enforce Islamic sharia law, claiming it was unconstitutional and un-Islamic.

Ms. Bhutto, who leads the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), accused the administration of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of seeking to railroad the bill through parliament in order to fend off criticism of growing instability. "We reject the bill as un-Islamic, sectarian, obscurantist and unconstitutional," she said. Parliamentary sources said the government wanted to adopt the controversial bill within a couple of days.

PDA deputies boycotted the morning session of the National Assembly, or lower house, because Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan had rejected a PDA demand that the debate, begun Monday in Ms. Bhutto's absence, be initiated by the leader of the opposition in accordance with parliamentary tradition. However, an understanding with the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) was reached and Ms. Bhutto was given the floor after the first reading of the bill was already completed.

Defending her earlier absence, Ms. Bhutto said she had to go to Lahore on "the command of the judiciary as a series of trumped up charges have been filed to haunt me." Ms. Bhutto, whose government was dismissed in August, is being tried in eight cases of alleged corruption during her 20 months in office. She was formally charged Monday with diverting about four million dollars of secret service funds to certain individuals for unlawful purposes.

The PDA is opposing the Sharia Bill along with the fundamentalist Jamiat Ulema-e Islam (JUI), which boycotted the session calling the bill a mockery of sharia. Ms. Bhutto called the bill "fundamentalist" and said it would "strike at the very root of democracy."

According to the influential daily DAWN, many IJI deputies have also warned Mr. Sharif against passing the bill without first reaching a consensus.

Ms. Bhutto's alliance has said the country needs no such legislation as the Constitution contains sufficient provisions to promote Islamic values.

The government introduced the bill on April 11 and later amended the draft to accommodate the views of religious scholars. Declaring sharia the supreme law of the land, the bill sets out a programme for Islamization of the economy and education and calls on the state to take Islamic measures to curb vices such as corruption and obscenity.

Benazir Bhutto Charged With Misusing Funds

*BK1305160691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 May 91*

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, a Lahore special court, headed by Justice Mohammad Amir Malik, formally charged former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today with willfully withdrawing over 95 million rupees from the Secret Service Fund and using it for unlawful purposes. According to the charge sheet issued by the court in connection with a presidential reference against Bhutto, the Secret Service Fund is used only for gathering facts and information. The respondent, however, while acting as prime minister, ordered the disbursement of over 95 million rupees to certain individuals during the fiscal years 1988-89 and 1989-90 without any formal request from the Intelligence Bureau, thereby depriving the national exchequer of this amount of money.

The respondent, who appeared in person, rejected the charge. In her reply, Benazir Bhutto submitted a written statement to the court, saying she would not divulge any secret under any pressure because, in her opinion, this is against national unity and interest.

Bhutto Party Leader 'Tortured' to Death

*BK1505100291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT
15 May 91*

[Text] Islamabad, May 15 (AFP)—A local leader of former premier Benazir Bhutto's party was allegedly tortured to death by police in Punjab Province, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported Wednesday.

Police have registered a case against "some high police officials" of the Crimes Investigation Agency (CIA) for the alleged murder of Ehsanul Haq, president of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in Chak Jhumra Town, 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of here, the agency said.

The official news agency did not say when and on what charges Ehsanul Haq had been arrested but said his father, Bashir Ahmed, had withdrawn a writ against CIA officials on April 1 after their assurance that his son would be freed. The police kept promising an early release and later told Mr. Ahmed that his son was being treated for injuries and he would be sent home when he recovered, it said. Mr. Ahmed learnt "that his son had been tortured to death and his body has been disposed of," APP said.

Before the arrest of the PPP leader, the police had detained his younger brother and sister, apparently to put pressure on him. Mr. Ehsanul Haq later presented himself to the authorities.

In a statement reported Wednesday by newspapers, Ms. Bhutto expressed "deep concern" over the death of her party colleague. It is a "clear example of the rulers' intentions against their political opponents," she said. "Instead of punishing the culprits, the government institutions are patronising the criminals," she said.

Ms. Bhutto accused the authorities of failing to provide security to the people and registering false cases against PPP members.

The former prime minister was sacked last August on charges of corruption and abuse of power during her 20-month rule. She says her party is victim of "political vendetta."

Sindhi Nationalists Claim Success in Strike

*BK1205153991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT
12 May 91*

[Text] Karachi, May 12 (AFP)—Sindhi nationalists observed a strike Sunday against rampant crime and alleged oppression by the government of southern Sindh Province.

"The strike was 85 percent successful in the interior despite the government's attempt to intimidate people through the use of police and security forces," Mumtaz Bhutto, chief of the Sindh National Front (SNF), told reporters here. The government media however said the strike was a "failure."

There was no response to the strike call in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, which are dominated by Urdu-speaking settlers who migrated from India.

The SNF chief, who is an uncle of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, alleged that "kidnapping and dacoities [thefts] in the province reflected total failure of the government" and demanded its dismissal. "The law and order situation has not only deprived Sindh of industrial

development but has also affected agricultural production in the province where dacoits (bandits) were operating at will," he said.

Mr. Bhutto alleged that some members of police and law enforcing agencies were providing supplies and weapons to the bandits and were even settling ransom money with them. "I have proof of this," he said.

Mr. Bhutto said Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had approached his party to convene an all-parties conference on the prevailing Sindh situation.